

# Redwood Riders Review



Volume 2017

No. 3

March

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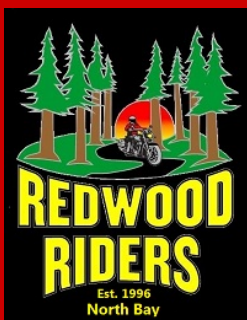
## Redwood Riders Gives to Ceres for 3rd Consecutive Year



Ben Johnstone, President of the Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club, presenting a check for Ceres Community Project to Development Associate & Event Manager Julie Foley.

This is the 3rd year in a row that the club has donated to Ceres. The donation came directly from the individual members and was collected throughout the year.

We thank the Redwood Riders for their continued support!



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## Club Business

### President's foreword



Ben Johnstone

### Prez Sez March 2017

Hopefully by the time you read this you will have experienced at least one sunny day, and actually taken a ride in at least a semi-warm temperature. California might have weather averages, but certainly no "typical" days for any particular time of year. What we seem to get are weather extremes with only rare days at or near the average. Nevertheless, California remains one of the best riding states I know of with year long riding available most of the time.

With spring fast approaching my attention turns to getting my bike ready for the riding season. I check the tires for wear and pressure, make sure the oil is fresh, and wax the bike. I don't want to be attending to these matters when prime riding weather returns.

I don't know if you have noticed, but I have, that our club is continuing to become more vibrant. The monthly newsletters are getting better and better, and George (our official photographer) has produced some outstanding videos and photo's of club activity. Also many riders are getting serious about planning riding vacations. The general membership meeting is the place to make those close connections and discuss your summer riding plans as well as getting hooked up with other members summer rides. One of the great things about this club is that everybody likes each other. That makes it super easy to connect with others for new riding adventures. If you haven't done this yet, I encourage you to start right away.

By Ben Johnstone ~ President



### Secretary's report



Sharon McMillan

### Redwood Riders Monthly Meeting February 21, 2017 China Village, Rohnert Park

**Opening Statement:** Ben opened the meeting commenting on all the rain and our rides are being cancelled because of it. The only one that happened was the Gualala ride on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. We have a full year of rides scheduled. Ben announced he will be on vacation in May when he was putting on the

overnight ride to Redding the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Advised that someone will need to take over that ride for him.

Great job done by Gretchen Tomm and Melisa Brown in putting together our After Holiday Party.

We visited Ceres Community Project on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and presented them with a check for \$721.00 for our annual donation. We were given an overview of what the organization does for the community. Ben read the thank you card the club received regarding our donation.

**Minutes:** were read by Sharon McMillan

**Treasurers Report:** DeeDee gave treasurers report.

**Membership:** Marcel reported that we have 57 paid members at this time. There are 100 total members on the list with some still needing to renew. Reminded the members that we have to have a signed application for someone to become an official member.

Marcel has eight 20th anniversary pins still available.

Club hats were passed out to the members that ordered them. Hats have names embroidered on the back.

He has new club business cards available for the members to give out to potential members.

Commented on the Awards given at the After Holiday Party which was given to Sharon McMillan, for being secretary for the last several years and thanking her for the doing a good job taking notes at our meetings. Another award went to Mike Holden for his great job as Tours and Events officer. He plans all of our rides and does an excellent job with all the planning.

Sharon recognized the award given to Marcel as our membership officer. His award was presented for his tireless contributions and efforts in promoting our club.

**Tours and Events:** Mike Holden reported that our rides have been rained out except the Gualala ride last month. The ride to the Coppola Winery on Feb 4<sup>th</sup> was also rained out. Mike reported that it is difficult to get reservations for the weekend and we might make it a weekday ride.

**Upcoming Rides in 2017:**

March 4<sup>th</sup> is our ride to Freeport which is out in the delta. This ride will be led by Gretchen.

March 8<sup>th</sup> which is a Wednesday will be led by Wade over to Winters for lunch.

March 19<sup>th</sup> Mike will lead the group to Lone.

Mike talked about a ride he will be making to Jefferson Lake, Colorado sometime around the end of June. This will not be a club ride, but anyone that would be interested in joining him is welcome and to let him know.

**Safety Officer:** George Homenko discussed the videos he is posting for the membership to look at. The latest one was on cornering techniques. Rosalie Mack complimented him for posting it. She found it had some very good information.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**50/50 Raffle:** This month's raffle was won by Barbara Bowen and the same amount will go to our Ceres charity. The second prize which was a pair of fingerless gloves was won by our new member, Randy Mack.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30

By Sharon McMillan ~ Secretary



## Tours & Events



Mike Holden

### March Rides and Events

March 2017

New month upcoming which promises to be much less drippy and drizzly than February, at least that's what those paragons of forecasting, the weathermen, tell us. So we should plan on getting ready for some serious riding during March and beyond. Fun stuffs a comin'! Here's what we have for March:

**Saturday, March 4** - Gretchen will lead us through the delta to Freeport. Knowing Gretchen this will be an interesting ride along a great route. We'll meet at Shari's in Rohnert Park at 9:30 and leave at 10:00.

**Wednesday, March 8** - We'll again meet at 9:30 at Shari's and follow Wade to Ukiah. His route is very beautiful, particularly in the Spring which, luckily, is now. We will have lunch at the City of 10,000 Budhas just outside of town. Lunches are very reasonably priced but this is a cash only establishment so bring a little of the green stuff.

**Sunday, March 19** - I'll be leading the ride to lone, a small gold rush era town in the foothills a little southeast of Sacramento. This will be our first ride in Daylight Savings Time so we'll be meeting at 9:00am and leaving Shari's at 9:30.

**Tuesday, March 21** - General Meeting at 7:00 at China Village in Rohnert Park. For those new members or those who may be planning on attending their first meeting many of us come at 6:00 to enjoy dinner and mingling with other members - it,s a fun time.

And remember, good weather means good riding. Call some friends and wear some of that rubber off those tires.

By Mike Holden ~ Tours and Events Director



## Membership

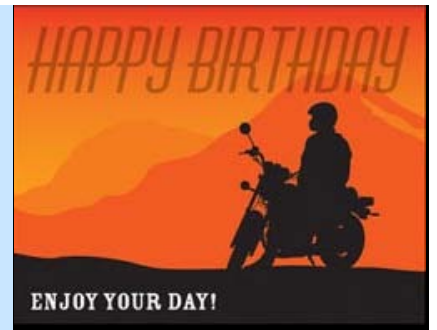
New members	Current membership		Membership Statistics	
Steve Cook	Full memberships	56	Men	44
David Donati	Co-riders	8	Women	23
Scott "UnclePsycho" Thompson	Provisional members	<u>3</u>	Members from	
	Total Club members	67*	5 Counties	
	*Total to date		25 cities	

### Birthdays in March

Linda Holden	Mathew Howard	
Darren Holloway	Andrew Lock	
Rosalie Mack	Scott Malloy	

Rita McAleece  
Larry Rainer

Shirleen Perry  
Craig Sultan



## Bulletin Board

### **New style hats are a success!**

So far, we have sold 26 of the new design.

The new design incorporates a sandwich bill (visor) with a red line, red accents, and **your name** on the back. It is fully adjustable, and best of all it is only \$15.00 with no tax.

If you want one of these, you can get it yourself by contacting Toni Morrison directly. Her phone

number is on the contacts page of the newsletter. Optionally, you can order one from Marcel at a meeting, on a ride or by Email. [foxxnetmarcelo@yahoo.com](mailto:foxxnetmarcelo@yahoo.com)

### **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](mailto:membership@redwoodridersmc.com)

You can also download a form on our main website under the "Membership" tab of the menu.

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.

### **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. You need this card to get the discounts offered by our sponsors.

By Marcel Svizzero ~ Membership Director



## Safety Officer's Tip of the Month



George Homenko

### Motorcycle Cornering

March 2017

Hello Redwood Riders,

In the next couple of months I would like to cover the subject of motorcycle cornering. We all have our own reasons for riding a motorcycle. For me, next to the camaraderie, I love a twisty road. Nothing like nailing a corner, for me its what it is all about.

The linked video is a great start in forming or bolstering good cornering habits. One of the things mentioned in this video is something I have to remind myself to do all the time. Looking through the corner. In the video its mentioned at the time marker 1:55. I have a bad habit of looking short in a corner, not looking ahead enough. As soon as I start looking through a corner everything flows so much better. It's like walking and staring at your feet, it just doesn't work very well. Look ahead, keep your head up in a corner. For me it makes a huge difference.

Some more basic cornering tips:

- Do your braking before the corner not in it.
- Always try to enter the corner at the proper speed Accelerate out of a corner, not into it.
- Start the corner wide. This makes a tight corner not so tight and improves visibility. More to follow on technique this next month.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fl9mfnpJ1wo>

And for all those people that think their cornering can't get any better here is a video for you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXWVYtsf43Y>

Also please do not ride on left side of the road (like in the video) unless you are in Australia or England or some other place where they drive on the wrong side of the road!

Safety Officer  
BMW George

By George Homenko ~ Safety Director

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## Editorials

### Wisdom of the month

A Highway Patrolman waited outside a popular biker bar, hoping for a bust. At closing time everyone came out and he spotted his potential quarry. The man was so obviously inebriated that he could barely walk. He stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes, looking for his motorcycle. After trying his keys on five other bikes, he finally found his own bike. He sat on his motorcycle for a good ten minutes, as the other patrons left. He turned his lights on, then off, and again on and off. He started his engine and pulled forward into the grass, then stopped. Finally, he pulled out onto the road and started to drive away. The patrolman, waiting for this, turned on his lights and pulled the man over. He administered the breathalyzer test, and to his great surprise, the man blew a 0.00. The patrolman was dumbfounded. "This equipment must be broken!" he exclaimed. "I doubt it," said the man, "You see, tonight I am the designated decoy... I haven't had a drink all day!"

*From various Internet sources, public domain ~ Editor*



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

## Extend Your Riding Season: Cold Weather Strategies

Old man winter lets loose a final blast to knock that last orange leaf to the ground. For some, it's time to roll the two-wheeled companion into a corner of the garage, throw the battery on a trickle charger, and hope for an early spring. For others, there is no end to the riding season, just a change in riding gear.

No, we're not talking about those who live in perpetual sunshine and warmth, but rather, folks who don't let cold weather deprive them of their favorite form of transportation. With a little knowledge and a few cold weather tricks, your riding season can be extended.

Here are some strategies for dealing with the worst winter has to offer.

### Ice

Black ice—really just an ominous name for hard-to-see frozen water on the road—can occur any time the temperature has been near the freezing point, or where frost can form. Some touring bikes have an air-temperature thermometer, but adding one to any bike is a cheap fix.

Bridges are susceptible to icing because they are disconnected from the warmth of the Earth and cool faster when air temperatures drop. Watch for spots on the road that are shaded from the sun. Well-traveled roads are often better, because passing traffic melts and dries the moisture.



If you do feel like you're on an icy patch, don't make any sudden moves, and don't touch the brakes. Pull in the clutch and let the bike coast until you're clear.

## Hypothermia

That cold shiver up your spine isn't just uncomfortable. It could also be a warning. Hypothermia occurs when your core body temperature drops significantly, and it can be deadly.

Temperatures don't need to be below freezing to induce hypothermia. Wind chill gets worse as wind speeds increase, and the longer you're out, the worse it gets.

One early sign of potential hypothermia occurs when you start feeling cold and you can't decide whether to pull over. The answer is always, "Yes." But your judgment may be clouded.

Long before this occurs, you should have pulled into that nice warm cafe and had some hot chocolate or soup.

Uncontrolled shivering and chattering teeth are signs of real danger. You may start to feel dizzy, or even drunk, as your muscles begin to stiffen. Continued exposure may cause the shivering to slow down or even stop, but by then you're in serious trouble.

## The well-dressed rider



How do you mitigate the dangers of cold weather? First of all, cover up. It all boils down to insulating your body. To do that, you need to layer. Synthetics work better for your inner layer than cotton, which holds moisture against your skin.

On top of that, wear fleece, wool or other layers that provide insulation. The idea is to let your body create a warm pocket of air between you and the environment.

Finally, you need to stop the environment from stealing your warm air. Your outer layer needs to block the wind. Leather works; denim, for example, doesn't.

These days, we also have a broad array of choices in nylon gear made specifically for motorcycling that provides versatile weather protection with vents, removable liners, waterproof membranes, adjustable fit, etc. If you choose outerwear that isn't waterproof, such as a leather jacket, be sure to carry a rainsuit that fits over it. Getting wet robs you of your insulation.

Whichever outer layer you choose, remember that it should provide crash protection, too. Buy gear made for motorcycling, not the fashion show.

Hands can be particularly vulnerable to the cold. Gauntlet-style gloves will help you seal the gap between gloves and jacket. Gloves with a breathable, waterproof liner will keep rain out while allowing moisture from perspiration to escape.

It may be obvious, but a full-face helmet will keep you warmer than no helmet or an open-face helmet. Sealing the area around your neck with a bandanna, or, better yet, a fleece or wind- and waterproof neck warmer, can make a dramatic

difference.

A balaclava (pictured) under the helmet provides a lot of additional comfort for minimal bulk.

## What about the bike?

No matter how well you're dressed, cold air has a way of sneaking in and robbing heat. The longer you're on the road, the worse it gets.

Your front line in the defense against cold is to block the wind. A windshield or fairing is a good front-line defense. Mounting a small windshield on your handlebars, if your bike doesn't have one, can be enough to divert the wind off your chest and help keep your upper-body vital organs warm.

## Going electric

No matter how well you dress, if you're on the road long enough, you'll lose more heat than your body can generate. Long riders resort to electrical assistance.

Heated clothing, which uses your bike's electrical system to power heating elements, makes a huge difference by not just insulating you, but adding heat to the whole equation.

Gloves start around \$100. Vests, depending on the style, can go from \$100 to \$200. Socks can range from simple D-cell powered items that sell for around \$25, to \$90 systems that hook into the rest of your electric riding gear.

Make sure your charging system can handle the load. Find out the output of your charging system, add up the draw from all your electrical gear, and make sure you're not draining your battery. Also, leave a margin of error, because your bike's output may be measured at cruising rpms and it may produce considerably less electrical power at idle.

For many riders, a vest alone is enough. If you keep your torso warm, your body will focus on pumping warm blood to your extremities. If your torso gets cold, your body will abandon the extremities to try to keep the vital organs warm, and that's when you can suffer from dangerously numb hands or, possibly, frostbitten toes.

## Chemical options

Another option is a lightweight, disposable heat pack, which offers a different kind of protection.

Imagine you're out for a ride on a nice fall day. You're so consumed with the changing leaves that you don't notice how far you've ridden. It's getting dark and cold — fast. A bit of quick heat can make all the difference.

An outdoor gear store, or even one of the big-box retailers that sell recreational goods, will have chemical packs of the type hunters use. Be careful, because some can produce up to 150 degrees, so don't put them next to bare skin.

## Keep hydrated

One last thing to think about—that you might not otherwise think about: Drink lots of liquids.

Dehydration may be foremost in your mind in the hot months, but you still lose moisture in winter. Cold, dry winter air can suck moisture out of you and you may not notice that you're perspiring.

*Article Reprinted from AMA ~ Editor*



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

Heated Gear. There is nothing worse than riding cold. I know there are old school riders in the club. Wearing layers upon layers of clothing. Toughing it out. Saying I don't need that stinking stuff. LOL..boy are you wrong! There is a better way to ride in comfort. Starting with well made heated gear and heated handgrips. As for heated gear I have found Gerbings and Harley to have the best. Both brands are made for motorcyclists. What I like about them is they have been around for years and they work. Both offer heated gloves, vests, jacket liners (that warm your arms, chest, back and neck), right down to

pant liners and socks.

There are dual controls, and connector links available that will allow the use of multiple gear such as a jacket and gloves with independent heat. You can adjust your comfort from warm to hot. Personally I have a set of heated gloves, and a jacket liner which have made cold weather riding bearable. Another feature is the availability of added accessories.

Many of the premium heated companies offer dual power sources. Gerbing and at last check Harley offer a lithium battery option with hand held remote so you can wear, lets say a heated vest when working in the garage or around the house. Or at a ball game. The rechargeable lithium battery is stored in a hidden pouch. Just to walk the dog on those cold mornings can be fun. Unfortunately, using a battery is limited to time and temperature level. The heated gloves or a vest with the mini batteries last about an hour. Of course they will be unlimited when you connect them to a 12 volt outlet on your bike.

One thing to consider is how to connect to a motorcycle and if your charging system can handle the extra load. Most modern bikes can, but check anyway. If you have a cigar lighter or power outlet great, hook up is simple and direct. Fortunately, there are many accessories and connectors available to you to connect your gear to your motorcycle battery. If all you have is a battery harness for a charger connected to your bike you will have to increase the inline fuse to a higher amp fuse. The oem fuses in a battery charger are very low and will blow on first use with the increased load. Most of them come with a .5 amp fuse, and in most cases a larger 10 amp should be perfect.

Now for those of you who don't wish to be tethered to a motorcycle I think heated grips are for you. OMG, are they nice. First time I used mine I was amazed I was coming back from Street Vibrations and the temps were in the 30s. And there was in a torrential downpour around Colfax. My hands weren't frozen to the grips and I was beaming the whole day.

Heated grips are a little more difficult to install. I recommend a professional. However, there is nothing we cannot do with youtube for a resource. There are videos on how to install and reviews. Once again Harley has kits. Many are pre wired for installation, some need extra harness kits. And of course if you have a Harley with the fly by wire you are limited to Harley only. If you plan to use a Harley heated grip, make sure to check the Harley web site for exact application and latest instructions please, please don't trust the parts person. Look it up yourself and then compare to their parts numbers.

Another kit I have found is Heat Demons. They basically have a heated tube that fits inside your handlebar. It does require a couple of holes to be drilled, and run a harness to the battery. It looks like a great option as an aftermarket accessory. I hope I have given everyone reading this a little insight into winter heated gear. Anything I left out or questions you may have can be found on the internet. With a little bit of research you too can ride in comfort. Later



## Members' views, stories and helpful tips

### This month's review, VP Racing Ethanol Shield.

#### **Ethanol Protection Additive**

Stability for the long road ahead.

Eliminates the problems caused by ethanol fuel while reducing heat and extending engine life. Fuel Stabilizer with Ethanol Shield

protects your engine and prevents repairs.

8oz. treats up to 80 gallons (303 Liters)



- 3 year fuel stabilizer\*\*
- Eliminates Ethanol fuel problems
- Protects and prevents need for repairs
- Extends engine life
- Reduces heat
- For use in all 4-cycle & 2-cycle gasoline engines
- For use in every tank fill up

\*\*Up to 3 years – 1oz. per 1 gallon of fuel

*This is a great product to use if you don't ride a motorcycle for extended periods of time. It will neutralize the ethanol in your gasoline. Recommended by Jay Leno's Garage. ~ Editor*



editor@redwoodridersmc.com

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# rides

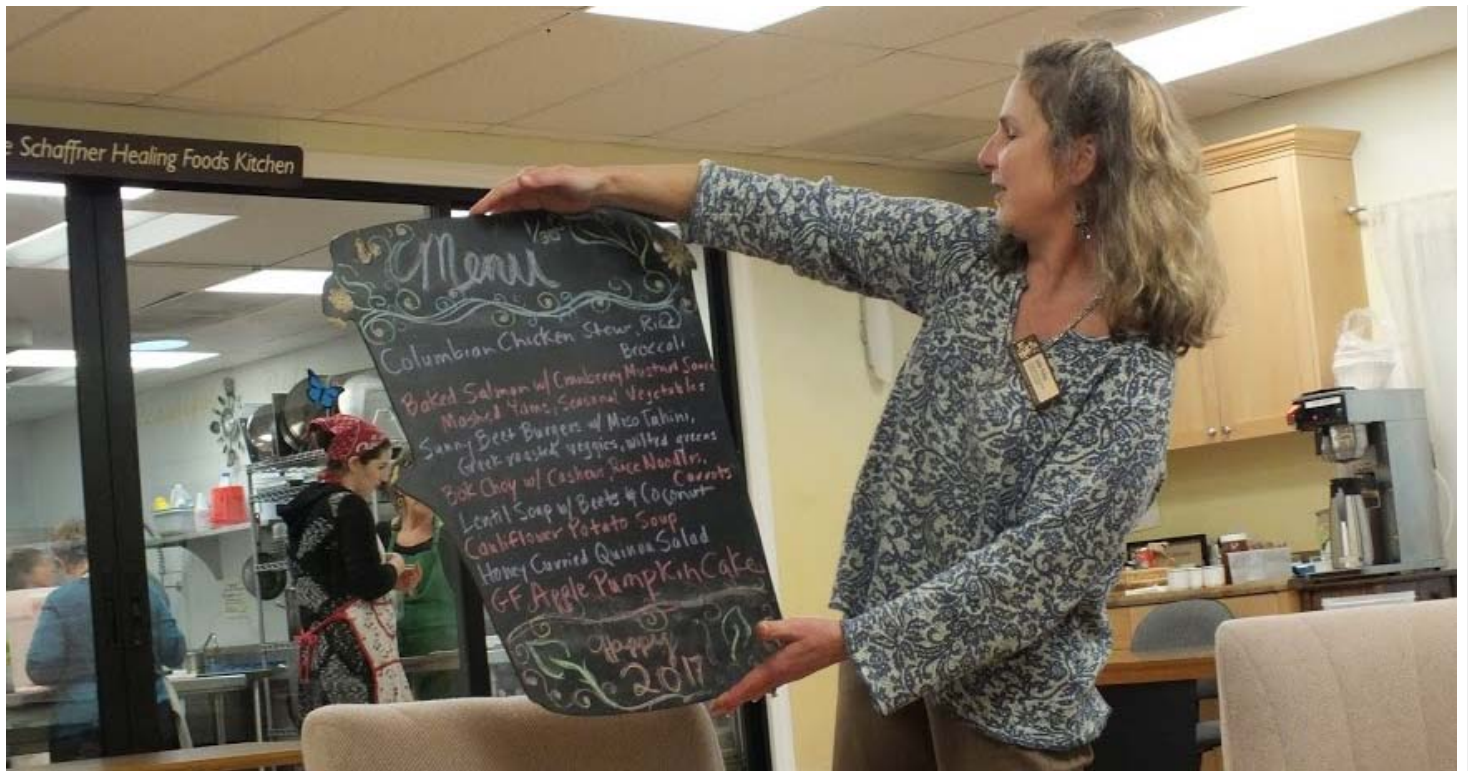
**February**  
Ceres Annual Donation



President making presentation



Today's menu



Kitchen preparation



Thank you Redwood Riders



**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:	Dee Dee Dargence
Tours & Events:	Mike Holden
Safety:	George Homenko
Membership:	Marcel Svizzero
Member at Large:	Wade Roberts
Sgt. at Arms:	Rosalie Mack
Past President:	Terry Perry

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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	penngrovmotorcycleco.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:** See Marcel for Pins, Patches, T-shirts, hats. Or 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](mailto:editor@redwoodridersmc.com)

**Webmaster**

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# This Month

## Local rides



Too much rain. No big rides.

