



Volume 2017

No. 6

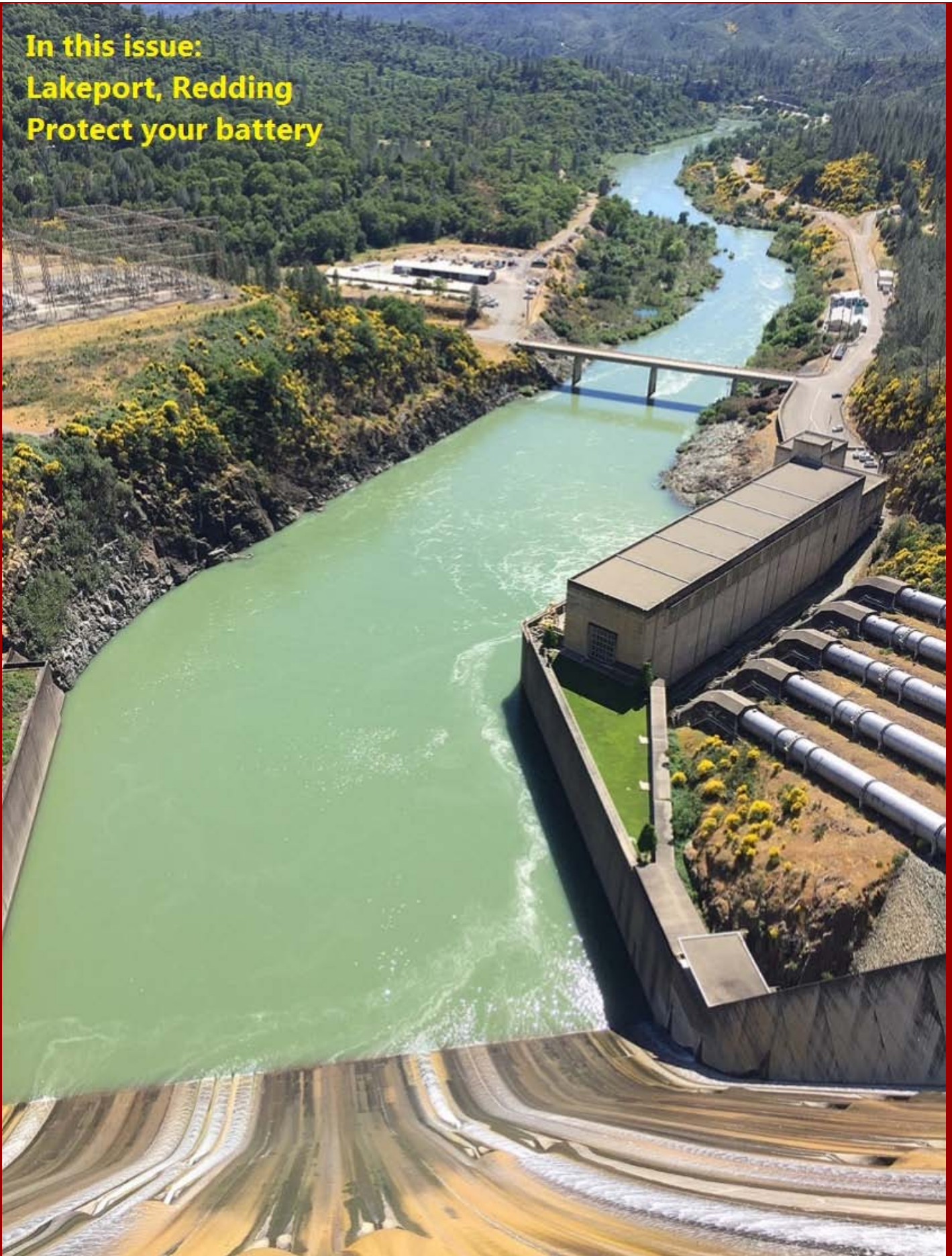
Redwood Riders Review



June

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Lakeport, Redding
Protect your battery



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Club Business

President's foreword



Ben Johnstone

Prez Sez

June 2017

By the time you read this, I should be back from my trip to Texas. I really enjoy riding in a group, especially making so many friends who like the thing that I like, but I enjoy solo riding just as much. My wife and I often take long rides around the country. We are together 24 hours a day, and it is like another honeymoon for us. We don't talk a lot while riding. This is a time for introspection for us along with enjoying the scenery and seeing how others outside of our community live, work, and play. We discuss what we saw when we stop (every hour) and after the day's ride is over. We rarely make reservations and enjoy following the road with stops when we feel the urge. We try to stop at our national parks when our route takes us close to them. We do the same when we are in the neighborhood of friends and relatives.

We never feel alone when traveling like this. At every stop there is someone who wants to talk to us about the motorcycle they own, or the one they used to own, and the trips they took. Even non riders want to talk about the motorcycle they want to own. We always feel welcome wherever we go. This is something that rarely happens when we are in a group of riders. People seem to be wary when they encounter more than one motorcycle at a time. Too many "B" movies I guess.

Below is a photo of one of these solo trips in 2006. Barb is standing alongside the Columbia River on in Oregon. We are on a Sportster.





Secretary's report



Sharon McMillan

Redwood Riders Monthly Meeting

June, 2017

China Village, Rohnert Park

Opening Statement: Gretchen Tomm conducted the meeting for this month since our President Ben Johnstone is on a motorcycle trip to Texas.

Our last ride was to Lakeport on May 6th. We had the largest group ever of 25 bikes and 27 people on the ride. We had four road captains since we had such a large group. It was noted that some riders were observed passing cars on the right and left. We shouldn't be doing this. We need to just have a good time and ride safe. The purpose of the club is to ride and make friends. Some members may want to share contact information to get together for non-club rides.

The Wednesday ride to Old Sacramento had 5 members attend.

May 20 & 21st – Overnight ride to Redding with Gretchen and Wade leading in place of Ben. Stayed at the LaQuinta in Redding. There is a tour available of Shasta Dam which Randy Mack provided information on. Also available are tours of Shasta Caverns.

Minutes: were read by Sharon McMillan

Treasurers Report: DeeDee gave treasurer report.

Membership: No Report as Marcel away on vacation

Tours and Events: Mike Holden on vacation in Canada.

Upcoming Rides in June:

June 9, 10 and 11 – Mike will lead our club on a three day Sierra ride.

June 14 will be our Wednesday ride and that will be led by Wade.

June 25th – ride to Cache Creek

Safety Officer: George Homenko emailed out a video for this month's safety report which included a video of a tire rolling free on the freeway in traffic taken by a friend of his. Discussion followed of what may have happened had the tire hit someone on a motorcycle.

Be aware when passing trucks. There is always tire failure which you see the tire remnants along the freeway. Signs of possible peeling could be odor as the tire heats up – it gets hot and lets go. He likes to speed up and get passed the trucks and semis. Be aware.

Tom Cooke told of his experience on Hwy 12 when he hit a deer. Look for a safe place to pass around the deer, not at the deer. You go where your eyes are looking.

General discussion of safety issues.

Old Business: None

New Business: Terry Perry had membership cards for those that needed one.

George shared with the membership that our member, Matthew Howard was hurt in a motorcycle accident in the Trinity Alps. He was in the hospital with injuries to his ribs, shoulders and facial bones. Melisa suggested that we send a card to him from the club.

George advised that the eclipse is coming in August with the best place to see it is in Oregon. The hotels in the area have raised their rates due to the interest.

Melisa suggested we make a ride to Jackson and also to Shelter Cove.

Old Business: None

50/50 Raffle: This month's raffle winners: Robyn Chosy won a dozen fresh eggs donated by Laurie and Steve Darling, second prize which were cleaning cloths was won by Laurie Darling and the third prize was a Starbucks Card won by Paul Benkover.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Terry Perry who donated it to the Ceres Charity.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35

By Sharon McMillan ~ Secretary



Tours & Events



Mike Holden

Rides and Events

June 2017

Upcoming Rides in June:

June 9, 10 and 11 – Mike Holden will lead our club on a three day Sierra ride.

June 14 - Wednesday ride to City of 10,000 Buddhas in Ukia, led by Wade.

June 25th – ride to Cache Creek

June 16 to June 25 – Mike will lead a non-club ride to Colorado. Anyone iterested should contact me.

By Mike Holden ~ Tours and Events Director



Membership

New members		Current membership		Membership Statistics	
		Full memberships	61	Men	50

Larry Petrucci
Malika Harville

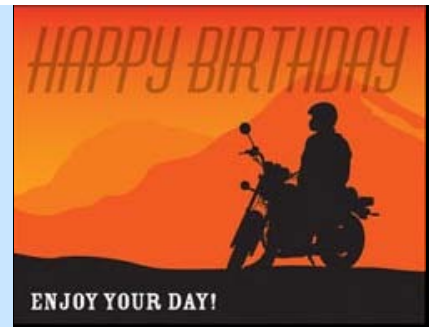
Co-riders	8
Provisional members	<u>6</u>
Total Club members	75*
*Total to date	

Women	25
Members from	5 Counties
	25 cities

Birthdays in June

Paul Albert
Bill Burnette
Ben Johnstone
Mary Wilson

Gregory Koss
Marcel Svizzero
Dave Trumbo
Malika Harville



Bulletin Board

Long Ride to Colorado in June.

Leaving June 16, returning June 25. This is an unofficial ride and is not club sponsored but it is open to anyone who wishes to participate. It is organized by Mike Holden. If you are interested, contact Mike by email and he will tell you what to do to make reservations for Motels. His email address is on the contact page of the newsletter.

Hotline

For last minute ride changes due to weather, call the hotline. 707-636-4811

New ride time.

It's Daylight Savings Time, so our meet up is now at 9:00am and rolling by 9:30 from Shari's in Rohnert Park.

New style hats are a success!

So far, we have sold 29 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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

Be Aware of Everything Around You.

June 2017

Redwood Riders,

I was thinking of changing my discussion from cornering techniques to highway safety this month. Then a good friend of mine sent me this photo and my mind was made up. He took this photo a couple of weeks ago, over by Cordelia. He always has his camera near by and took the photo as the incident unfolded. He is not a motorcyclist and he thought it a curiosity, I saw it more as a picture of pure road terror.



This shows a complete donut of some 40 pounds of rubber heading down the freeway in a haphazard and unpredictable course. The rubber ring did eventually hit the side of the silver car on the right. Being a car, not much damage occurred. If it had been a bike it could have been a completely different story.

The obvious way to prevent this from being a tragedy is not to follow anything too close. That being said you still have to pass slower vehicles and to do that you need to get close. So be alert! When the top tread came off this tire there were almost certainly warning signs of the impending failure. When tires fail it is almost always because of excessive heat and that is caused by too much load and or not enough air pressure. Note the small black rubber chunks on the road. They were almost certainly visible prior to the complete failure. There was certainly also an odor of hot/burning rubber that long preceded the failure.

Although I have rarely see this flying donut problem on a car tire, it can happen. More likely in a car an overheated tire will stay in one piece but then cause a loss of control at the time of failure. The same warning signs from above will be present.

We can discuss this in more detail at the upcoming RR meeting.

Safety Officer
BMW George

By George Homenko ~ Safety Director

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Editorials

Wisdom of the month

A rookie police officer pulled a biker over for speeding and had the following exchange:

- Officer: May I see your driver's license?
- Biker: I don't have one. I had it suspended when I got my 5th DUI.
- Officer: May I see the owner's card for this vehicle?
- Biker: It's not my bike. I stole it.
- Officer: The motorcycle is stolen?
- Biker: That's right. But come to think of it, I think I saw the owner's card in the tool bag when I was putting my gun in there.
- Officer: There's a gun in the tool bag?
- Biker: Yes sir. That's where I put it after I shot and killed the dude who owns this bike and stuffed his dope in the saddle bags.
- Officer: There's drugs in the saddle bags too?!?!?
- Biker: Yes, sir. Hearing this, the rookie immediately called his captain. The biker was quickly surrounded by police, and the captain approached the biker to handle the tense situation:
- Captain: Sir, can I see your license?
- Biker: Sure. Here it is. It was valid.
- Captain: Who's motorcycle is this?
- Biker: It's mine, officer. Here's the registration.
- Captain: Could you slowly open your tool bag so I can see if there's a gun in it?
- Biker: Yes, sir, but there's no gun in it. Sure enough, there was nothing in the tool bag.
- Captain: Would you mind opening your saddle bags? I was told you said there's drugs in them.
- Biker: No problem. The saddle bags were opened; no drugs.
- Captain: I don't understand it. The officer who stopped you said you told him you didn't have a license, stole this motorcycle, had a gun in the tool bag, and that there were drugs in the saddle bags.
- Biker: Yeah, I'll bet he told you I was speeding, too.

From various Internet sources, public domain ~ Editor



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



Tom Cooke

Tips for handling heavy bikes: So what's different?

June 2017

Many of us rode light bikes when we were young. They were less expensive and more available than the big, heavy bikes we have gravitated to as time as marched on.

What sort of adjustments are called for now that we ride bikes like Harley Davidson Road Glides at 916 pounds, or Honda Goldwings, also weighing in at over 900 pounds. Ditto Indian touring bikes and others as well. These bikes weigh about double what we rode long ago. So, some adjustments are called for in order to stay safe and max out our fun on our latter day behemoth bikes.

Keep your vision focused a bit further out in front of you. These big bikes are not only heavier, they have a higher center of gravity due to touring bags and top cases. They need longer to stop. Keep this in mind as you scan the road in front of you. These big bikes are wider and less nimble than the bikes of our youth. It seemed easy to dart around on our light bikes. More skill is required for the same maneuvering on big touring bikes. What does this mean? As the wise man once said..... "The answer is practice....what was the question?" Practice bike control, low speed turns and so forth in empty parking lots before taking the heavy bike out and about where some unhappy surprises often await. And practice repeatedly, now and then, not just once.

How about Footwear? The heavy bikes require us to use rigid, strong footwear with "grippy" soles. Gone are the days we would ride in light running shoes. We need the maximum torsional rigidity in our boots today.

And stay strong. While we hate to admit it, we are less strong than we were in our youth. Even as we age, we can preserve and improve strength by not being a stranger to the weight room. Leg muscles obviously, but upper body muscles too need to be as strong as possible in order to hold up the big beasts we ride today.

To sum it up, while our big, heavy bikes are smooth and powerful, and allow us to tour longer with more gear they also require more of us. Plan Accordingly.



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



Paul Albert

Motorcycle Battery Chargers

June 2017

OK, Its Sunday morning, you get all geared up ready for that long awaited ride. The bike is washed and waxed. All packed up. Back the bike out, flip the engine kill switch, pull in the clutch, push the starter button. And Nothing. Crap, dead battery. This can spoil your day.

As you know today's bikes are loaded with electronics. Many draw current even with the key off. Computers, radios, alarms and immobilizers are all at fault. Or the dummy behind the handlebars just forgot to turn off the ignition switch. How to avoid such a problem? Well, it is quite simple. A quality battery charger. Not just any charger from the auto store or Harbor Freight. A motorcycle specific is what I recommend. Preferably with a float function. The motorcycle charger, usually comes with a short battery harness that stays on the bike, then connects to the long cable from the charger. Some chargers are capable of charging multiple bikes at the same time. So when you come home from a ride, you plug it in to the charger, then plug the charger into an outlet.

Almost all motorcycle chargers, have a float function, which means you can leave it plugged in for days or weeks and it will not harm/overcharge/boil your battery. The float function will turn on and off when the battery needs to be topped up. Confirm the charger has this float function before you buy, or you will have to unplug and plug in the charger religiously, and if you forget, well....

Also, most of these motorcycle battery chargers have a test function which will alert you to a potential battery failure. They will perform a test cycle before charging and indicate a problem. Letting you know it is time to replace the battery before you are stranded.

Basically to install. Locate and expose the battery. Ignition OFF. Take the included short harness, to the bike, always disconnect the negative terminal first, then the positive. Less chance of a spark which could ignite the explosive gas given off from a lead acid battery. If your battery is corroded or worse, this would be the time to clean the terminals or replace the

battery. If you have an older battery check the fluid level, and if necessary top off the cells.

Then first, install the red positive lead of the charger cable to the battery terminal, and tighten. Wiggle the wires to insure they are tight. Install the negative short charger cable to the battery terminal and tighten. Route the charger pigtail plug to a location that is easily accessible, and secure with zip ties. Keep it away from hot or moving parts. An area that is easily accessible or could be tucked away out of sight is ideal. This short battery harness usually is fused for safety, and you should confirm the fuse is installed and not blown, Especially, if the charger kit was from Ebay or Craigslist, sold as used. Plug the charger into the connector and you are done. Except for having to reset your radio, and clock.

Look at the charger, confirm the charge light is on, or warning as to a fault, later confirm the charge lamp shows fully charged. It will take anywhere from 15 minutes to 15 hours to fully charge a battery with a motorcycle trickle charger depending on the condition of the battery. Best of all these chargers will extend the life of a battery for years. Please note, I am assuming only battery not charging problems. Time required for install 1 1/2 beers. Nuff Said..P

The battery in my Valkyrie lasted 9 years on a Battery Tender Jr. - Editor



Members' views, stories and helpful tips



The Battery Tender® Junior offers much more than a trickle charger could offer. It has a brain. It's lightweight, compact, and fully automatic; very easy to use, especially in small spaces. It will keep your battery fully charged so that it is ready to go when you are!

- Perfect for all lead-acid, flooded or sealed maintenance free batteries (AGM and gel cell).
- Complete 4-step charging program (Initialization, Bulk Charge, Absorption Mode, Float Mode).
- Automatically switches to float / maintenance voltage after fully charging the battery.
- If the battery voltage drops too far under load, full charger output power resumes.
- Solid state two color LED indicates stage of charger.
- Spark proof.
- Reverse polarity protected.
- 12' output cord.
- 5 year warranty

\$39.95 List (\$25.95 at Walmart)

Comes with all cords for plugin to aux. plug or direct hook up to battery.

A Great product that works, has float function. I have used one for years ~ Editor

Submitted by Marcel Svizzero



This month's 50/50 raffle winner





Terry Perry

Other winners:

A dozen fresh eggs Won by Robyn Chosy

Cleaning cloths won by Laurie Darling

Starbucks Card won by Paul Benkover.



editor@redwoodridersmc.com

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rides

Lakeport Ride

May 6, 2017





We go places!

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Club Contacts

Officers and Road Captains

RRMC Board of Directors

President:	Ben Johnstone
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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Road Captains

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

Wade Roberts

Ben Johnstone

Terry Perry

Gretchen Tomm

George Homenko

Michael Turpin

Need a volunteer for road captain



Sponsors*

Northbay Motorsports	Santa Rosa	Honda, Kawasaki	707-542-5355	northbaymotorsports.com
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Mammoth Motorsports	Rohnert Park	Tire specials, check	707-585-7677	mammothmotorsports.com
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		Honda, Yamaha		

*See Sponsor page for discounts



Club Gear

Marcel Svizzero 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

Marcel Svizzero

Send your suggestions to: editor@redwoodridersmc.com

Webmaster

Marcel Svizzero

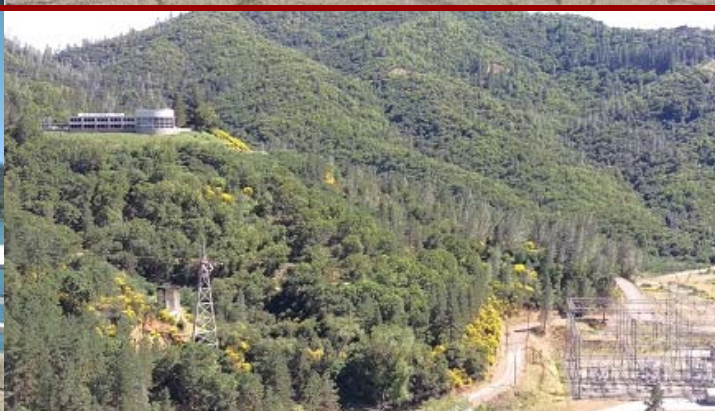
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Long Rides

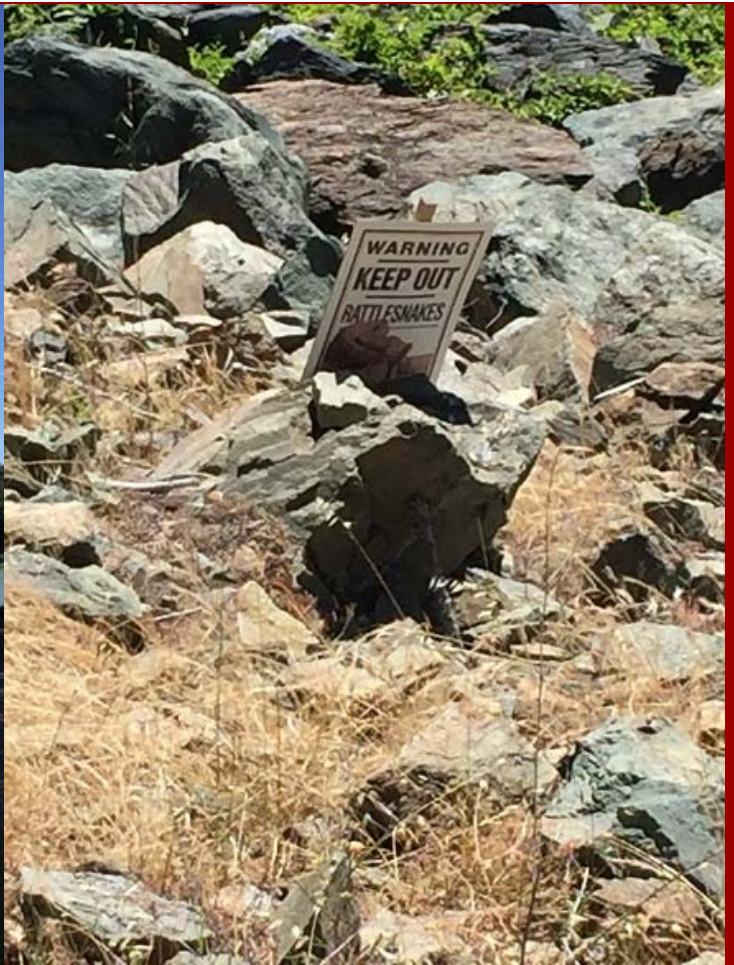
Redding

First long ride of the year May 20-21









Shasta Caves



We go places!

Next long rides

High Sierra ride, June 9 to 11

Colorado, June 16 to 25

Tahoe Overnight, July 22-23

Feather River Canyon Overnight, August 19 - 20

More to come

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