

Redwood Riders Review

April 2018

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"Prez Sez..."

by Gretchen Tomm - *President*

Happy Spring! Happy Easter!
The rains have brought us more green and flowers to enjoy on our rides!

I just got back from a short visit to Colorado to visit my mom. While there, I had a chance to visit some of my old riding friends.

We met when I moved to Grand Junction, CO in 1997 and we started riding together then. One lady I met through a national women's club that had a local chapter in Grand Junction. The other couple, I met through the local Harley Owners Group. And, we all rode on all the local club rides supporting each other. We have remained good friends despite living in different states.



The reason I mention this is because within our club, I have met some really nice friends. They are not only riding friends, but friends I enjoy also getting together with socially. I feel we have a great club. We not only love to ride, but have fun doing so! I am proud to be able to service as an officer.

In the wind..... Gretchen



Long Rides are Coming Up!

Riding season is sneaking up on us! We have a couple of 3-Day rides and an overnight right around the corner plus we have hotel info for our 9 day ride in September. **NOW IS THE TIME** to put in your vacation request at work, start socking away some extra cash, arrange roomies and make reservations! See Wade's Tours & Events on page 6 for more info!

Let's Ride!

Membership

by Dee Dee d'Argence - *Treasurer & Membership Director*

Membership Stats

MEMBERSHIP

Full Memberships	48
Co-Riders	10
Provisional Members*	10
TOTAL	68

*New Members in 2018

RIDER STATISTICS

Men	44
Women	14

***We Have Members From
4 Counties & 17 Cities!***



NEW MEMBERS

Frank Ortisi



RRMC MEMBERSHIP CARDS

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

Need to renew your membership?
Contact Dee Dee
membership@redwoodridersmc.com



APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES...

Barbara Bowen
Melisa Brown
Denise Dawe
Carole Gonzales
Robin Simi
John Zulauf



Safety report

by “BMW George” Homenko - *Safety Officer*

Let's Talk Brake Fluid!

Last month I had an instance that made me think about brake fluids in my motorcycle.

My friend Tom Cooke and fellow Redwood Rider, called me up and said his bike was broken down. He wanted to know if I could lend a hand. Seems Tom hit the brakes hard on his Yamaha, no harm done, and he drove on. He then started to notice that the bike felt sluggish. Then all of the sudden the bike stopped rolling in the middle of the street. Luckily, he was on a small two lane back road with little traffic. One of the front brakes was very hot and had locked to the rotor. It was all he could do the move the bike to the side of the road. That's when he called me.

By the time I drove over to where he was the brake had cooled and the bike seemed fine again. The brake was free, and the bike could have been ridden again. We decided to take the safe route and call AAA and have the bike hauled to a repair shop. I thought the problem might have been caused by excessive moisture in the brake fluid. Come to find out I was right. The Motorcycle Shop in Santa Rosa said the problem was caused by old brake fluid. They changed the brake fluid and also had to replace one set of brake pads.

Here is the critique of what we think happened:

- Tom hit the brakes hard.
- This caused heat in the braking system.
- This heat caused the excessive water in the brake fluid to boil and expand.
- The expanded fluid made it so the brakes did not release all the way.
- Then Tom drove on, this caused additional heat because the brakes were continuing to grab.
- This caused even more heat and more grabbing of the effected brakes.
- The engine was eventually less strong then the front brake being locked, and the bike stopped moving.

If you think this is happening to you, here are a few things you can do to protect yourself from having the brakes lock while riding:

- If the brakes are working properly and you pull in the clutch while riding, the bike should coast normally. If it stops faster than it should, something is most likely wrong.



- Pull the bike over to a safe spot. Carefully sense if there is any excessive heat coming from any of the brake rotors. Please note that it is normal for brakes to be between warm to mildly hot when riding. But one brake rotor should not be a lot hotter than the other brakes. I've seen a dragging rotor almost turn red hot!
- If you think you have a problem, give the brake some time to cool. If you need to drive on and a tow is not practical, try not to use the brake that was giving you the problem. If you have a linked braking system (that's when you stop with the front brakes the rear brake is applied automatically) and the rear brake is the problem, it is impossible not to use the rear brake. So then you should look for a tow.

Brake fluid is hydrophilic, meaning it'll mix with water and it can attract and absorb moisture out of the air. Harley Davidson, BMW and most experts in the field recommend that you change your brake fluid every 2 years. And I would add to that only use a fresh can of the recommended brake fluid. And what is your recommended brake fluid? The type of fluid you should use in on the top cap of your brake fluid reservoir and in your owner's manual. Use only fluids types recommend by the manufacturer.

For those of us that like to do our own work, YouTube has a ton of information on how to change your own brake fluid. It can run from pretty simple on a non-ABS system to something a little more involved. So, you might want to take your bike to a mechanic and have them do it. Especially on the more advanced ABS/Linked braking systems.

Here is a pretty good run down of brake fluid types I found on the web:

<https://www.motorcyclistonline.com/mc-garage-video-brake-fluid-grades-explained>

General Meeting Minutes

by Sharon McMillan - *Secretary*

March 20th 2018



Opening Statement: President Gretchen Tomm opened the meeting welcoming John Zulauf. John was injured in a motorcycle accident 3 months ago and this is his first meeting he has been able to attend since.

Gretchen read a letter along with a card from Catherine Couch, director of our charity, Ceres Community Project, thanking us for our donation of \$1700.

Minutes: Sharon McMillan read the minutes from the February meeting.

Treasurers Report: DeeDee D'Argence provided the treasurers report.

Membership Report: DeeDee D'Argence reported that we have 48 returning members and that we have added 13 new members for a total of 61 members.

Regarding hats, DeeDee has the hats that people ordered earlier with her at the meeting.

Tours and Events: Wade Roberts gave his report.

March 3rd ride to Gualala was changed to Sunday March 4th due to the weather. Three riders made the ride. Vicky and Melisa were to have put that ride on - Vicky said it will be redone at a later date.

March 14th ride to Woodland was rained out.

March 18th ride went to the Buddhist Temple in Ukiah for lunch. There were 16 bikes on the ride with 18 riders. This ride was led by Wade Roberts.

April 7th Saturday ride to Oakdale will be led by Larry Petrucci.

April 11th Wednesday ride will be led by Bob Gonzales and will end up at the Colusa Casino for lunch.

April 17th will be our next general meeting.

April 20th, 21st and 22nd will be our three day ride to Solvang led by Ben Johnstone. Ben said it would be 425 miles on Friday to get there. Described the route with lodging at Buellton. Next day is a back road ride to Santa Barbara and Sunday straight home on Hwy 101.

June 1st, 2nd and 3rd is our ride to Reno. Randy briefed the membership about the ride; first night is in Burney and the next night is Reno. Randy has purchased 24 tickets to the Reno Aces game for Saturday. You need to purchase them from Randy. He said it is a fun event to attend.

Sept 8th through the 16th will be our long 8 day ride through Oregon, Washington and into Canada. Wade and Gretchen are putting this ride together. Wade provided a list of the lodging for each night for anyone going to make their reservations.

General Meeting Minutes

T-shirts – Wade has some shirts available for sale with him tonight. He got a new catalog from Toni Morrison who handles putting our logos on the clothing. You can order any clothing item in the catalog and have patches or embroidery added to the shirts. Silk screening will require a minimum order.

Safety Officer: George Homenko's safety presentation talked about recent brake failures that happened to a couple of our club members. The brakes are locking up. Brake fluid need to be changed every couple of years due to moisture and condensation getting into the braking system. He will provide more information in the newsletter. Ben mentioned that Harley Davidson sent out a notice for certain models to go in and have the brake fluid changed.

Old Business: Compliments to Robyn for taking on the newsletter. Robyn said the website is still a work in progress, but getting there.

New Business: Gretchen brought up to the membership the question that was discussed at the last board meeting regarding including a member profile in our newsletter. Some were in favor of it, just not sure at this time how to make it happen. It was tabled for now.

Raffle:

- 1st prize – went to Ben which was a couple boxes of different teas
- 2nd prize – of candy was won by Cathy Calleja
- 3rd prize – DeeDee won hand and foot warmers
- 4th prize – was a key ring and air release valve and that went to Aaron Lynch
- 5th prize – went to Julie Sherman which was a screwdriver
- 6th prize – a small flexible light was won by Sharon McMillan
- 7th prize – A Starbucks card that went to Ben Johnstone

The 50/50 charity raffle was won by Gretchen Tomm. She turned her portion over to our Ceres charity.

Adjourned at 7:40

More General Meeting Photos in Google Photo Album:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZwSX397BWQZrY0kZ2>



Tours & Events

by Wade Roberts - *Tours & Events Director*

Ride Reviews & Upcoming Rides

Riders, I bet you are ready to ride!

What a rainy March! Looking forward to sun in April... sure hope so! I know I am ready to do some riding with sunny and warmer weather ahead of us. Let's Ride!

Past Rides in March

Saturday March 3rd - Gualala. Vicky & Melisa leading. Ride was cancelled due to rain.

Sunday March 4th - Gualala. Gretchen and I led the ride with 3 Riders. A little chilly but sunny. We went up and back the same way on Highway 1. What a beautiful day, the sky and water were the same color blue and we had a great lunch.

Wednesday March 18th - Woodland. Ride was cancelled due to rain.

Sunday March 18th - Buddhist Temple. I led with 16 bikes and 18 riders. We rode out to Westside Rd up to Cloverdale up Highway 128 to Highway 253 to Ukiah, then on to Talmage to the City of 10,000 Buddhas for lunch at Jyan Kang Vegetarian Restaurant. After lunch, took Old River Rd to Hopland then Highway 101 home. This was a beautiful ride with beautiful weather a little chilly in spots, but still a great ride.

Tuesday March 20th - General Membership Meeting with 24 members attending.

April, Let's Ride! We have some Great Rides going on!

Saturday April 7th - Oakdale. Larry Petrucci will be leading this ride and is his first time leading a group ride with the Club. So, let's support him! I know I am looking forward to this ride.

Wednesday April 11th - Colusa Casino. Bob Gonzales will be leading this ride. This is also Bob's first time leading a group club ride. So, come out, it will be our "first" real Wednesday ride, and what better way to spend a Wednesday but with Bob and his ride. I'm looking forward to this ride, I have never been.



Tuesday April 17th - General Meeting @ China Village, Cotati. Eat and greet starts at 6pm to 7pm. Meeting starts at 7pm. Come out and see how the club works, and visit with other riders in the club.

First Overnight Ride; 3 Days

Friday April 20th, Saturday April 21st & Sunday April 22nd - Solvang. Ben Johnstone will be leading this ride. If you have ever been on one of Ben's rides, they are a blast. We will be meeting at Shari's at 7:30 am and leaving at 8 am. Please have a full tank of gas when you get to Shari's. We are staying at ANDERSONS PEA SOUP INN (800-732-7687) for 2 nights, so if you are interested on going on this ride you must make your own reservations for the nights of April 20th and 21st. Hope to see you all there, it will be a lot of fun. If you have never been on our overnight rides, it is a great way to know your other club members.

Our First Week Long Trip

Though Oregon, Washington, Canada and California is Sept 8th to the 16th. This is an 8 day ride with Gretchen Tomm and I leading. We have all the hotel information so, if you are interested on going on this ride please book your rooms, they do fill up. Any information you need, I have, so please email me at waderoberts@comcast.net and I will get back to you.

So, Redwood Riders, see you on all the April rides.

Your Tours and Events - Wade



Rides & Events April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Easter	2	3	4	5	6	7 OAKDALE Road Captain: <i>Larry</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU
<div> Check the MeetUp site for updates & last minute changes! </div>						
8	9	10	11 COLUSA CASINO Road Captain: <i>Bob</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU	12	13	14
15	16	17 GENERAL MEETING 6:00 ^{PM} Dinner 7:00 ^{PM} Meeting	18	19	20 SOLVANG Road Captain: <i>Ben</i> 7:30 ^{AM} Meet 8:00 ^{AM} KSU	21 SOLVANG Road Captain: <i>Ben</i>
22 SOLVANG Road Captain: <i>Ben</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5 CLEAR LAKE Road Captain: <i>Wade</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU

Tom's Take

by Tom Cooke - Contributor

Drink & Ride? Whoa! Do the math!

Last time I looked I did not see any Redwood Riders wearing Halos of the saintly kind. Myself included of course.

We've all managed a less than smart decision(s) somewhere along the line.

That said, we need not repeat them. Particularly those that put ourselves or others in harm's way. Let's focus on one... Driving under the influence. In a word, don't. In two words, don't ever. Why not? Am I just some old, over the hill guy trying to interfere with your good times? Nope!

Consider these numbers, as staggering as they are. Fully 50% of all motorcycle fatalities in the United States involve riders who were driving under the influence (DUI) when they came to doom. 70% of riders who crashed but were not killed were DUI. So how can you reduce your odds of crashing by 70% or being a motorcycle fatality by 50%? Real simple, do not ride when under the influence.

We know through lots of experience on two wheels that there are distracted drivers who "did not see" the bike they hit or turned in front of. Drivers may be texting, talking on the phone (though it is illegal), eating, dealing with their kids in the car or putting on makeup. We can't change that, or plan for it. But, what we can change are our odds of being hurt or killed due to DUI on a bike. Riding well



is demanding, challenging and requires our full mental attention and physical coordination. That's a big part of why we love it. What a thrill it is to navigate a beautiful mountain or coastal road, curves and all. Just do it sober and ride with people who are also sober. Don't become a sad statistic.

Pilots in the United States Air Force have a rule built on lots of good evidence...they call it "12 hours from throttle to bottle". We should follow that smart rule of thumb.

And remember, if you find yourself in a spot where the temptation to drink on a ride is too strong to resist...find a place to stay or spend the night until you are no longer DUI. That just might add to the adventure of the ride.

Rubber side down - Tom



**DUI DOESN'T
JUST MEAN
BOOZE**

Blast from the Past (president)

by "Big" Ben Johnstone - *Past President*

April 2018



WOW! What a great start to the New Year. The rides have been great, the parties have been great, and we are getting new members and making new friends. This is shaping up to be a GREAT year!

Have you planned your rides for the year yet? Barb and I will be taking another of our "honeymoon" trips this year. It will be our tenth trip of this type. This year we will be traveling to Banff by way of the Oregon coast; Lake Quainult Washington; the suspension bridge in Vancouver BC; and a park near Kamloops BC. We will stay near Lake Louise and hike up the mountain overlooking the lake to the tea house. Some of these stops are repeats of where we have traveled before and I am sure they will be even more enjoyable this time around.

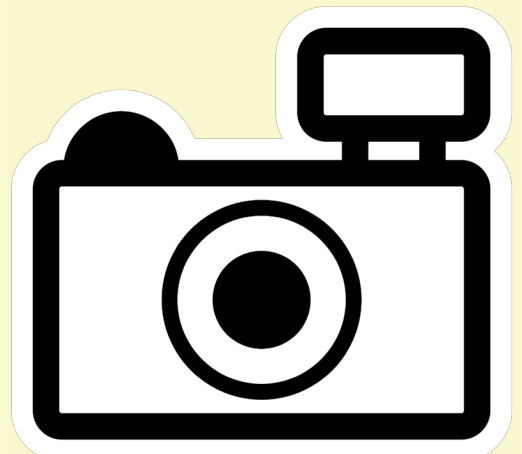
On the way back we will stop in Waterton Park Alberta; take the "highway to the sun" across Glacier National Park and hang out in Missoula before traveling to a riverfront house on central Washington State for a reunion with our extended family. From there we travel through the Columbia River gorge; south using the Cascades Scenic byway; on to Crater Lake, and finally home.

I spend almost as much time planning these trips as I do on the trips. I like researching all of the best roads and places to see and stay. Traveling with a group is fun, but so is traveling by ourselves. We can stop, bypass, or change our route at will. This is something each of us enjoys and is truly a "honeymoon" experience. Try it, you will like it.

Ride & Event Photos Links

Anyone who would like to share their photos is invited to upload them. Please contact Robyn, to obtain the credentials. ENJOY!

Coppola Ride:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/uDZ0WrpppX9er6fH3
Stinson Ride:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/NkHePJlf69iy9lg52
After-Holiday Party:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/FmA7dDlbrdtLLF8n2
Suisun Ride:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/SJbKXRwszXVpX1MY2
Capay Ride:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/C0kDVTsDrsUJo3vi2
February Meeting:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/oA6o9TFz7h4tP1FA2
Ceres Visit:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/Fqw8oChA6DximiHX2
10, 000 Buddhas:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/5kVqV71zpvTQVHdT2
March Meeting:	https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZwSX397BWQZrY0kZ2



RRMC Charity

by Robyn LaMantia-Chosy - VP & Media Mistress

Ceres Community Project

Established in 2007, the Ceres Community Project is a unique organization which provides healthy, nutritional meals to the community while empowering teens, who volunteer as chefs and gardeners.

The RRMC has been supporting this fantastic non-profit for the past 4 years by contributing half of the 50/50 Raffle, held during our Monthly General Meetings. In addition, all the proceeds from the After Holiday Party Silent Auction were donated, totaling a whopping \$1,700 as our annual contribution this past year.

On Monday, February 26th, a group of RRMC members were on hand for the donation presentation and tour of the Ceres Community Project facilities which was provided by Julie Foley who is the Development Associate & Event Manager.

This was my first visit to their Sebastopol Kitchen & Office, which is surrounded by the beautiful Moira Chatton Healing Garden, and I wanted to share with you a brief overview of this unique organization.

The Ceres Community Project operates on four basic ideas;

Food as Medicine: Support primarily low-income people struggling because of a serious health challenge with free and low-cost, home-delivered, nourishing organic meals, nutrition education and the caring support of the community.

Teen Empowerment: All the meals Ceres provides are prepared by youth ages 14 and up who volunteer in either the garden or in one of the three commercial kitchen sites in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Ceres' mentors give teens the opportunity to learn to cook and eat for health, gain the skills to be successful at school and work, develop leadership, become change-makers in their community, and discover the joy of giving back.

Community Education: Advocate the vital importance of a diet based on healthy organic and locally-produced foods, and provide the knowledge, skills and inspiration for people to make and maintain real change in how they



eat. They publish and distribute **Nourishing Connections Cookbook**, offer **healthy eating classes** for the community, partner with local community clinics to teach nutrition through the Nutrition for Wellness Program, offer **catering** featuring nutrient-rich, organic and locally grown whole foods, and actively work to educate volunteers, donors and especially health professionals about the difference that whole organic foods can make for themselves and their patients.

National Replication: Community groups around the country are inspired by their work and Ceres offers a free Start-Up Tool Kit, four-day training, and a licensing program for those interested in replication. To date, 12 communities across the country have programs modeled on the Ceres Project.

I was inspired by the commitment and dedication of the staff and volunteers and impressed with the variety of their program offerings. The Ceres Community Project is a valuable asset to our community and am proud our club is able to contribute to their program.

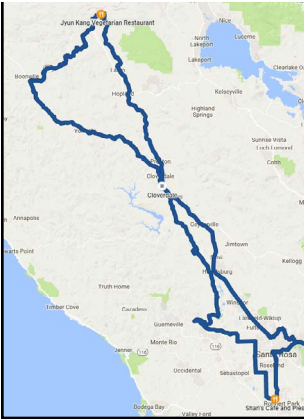
There is so much more information available on their website, **ceresproject.org**, so please take a few minutes of your day to visit and consider donating either your time or financially to this worthy cause.

As a final note, the RRMC was featured in their April Newsletter. Unfortunately, Ceres has not yet posted it on their website but I would be happy to forward you a copy if interested. Shoot me an email at **vicepresident@redwoodridersmc.com**

Ceres Community Project Visit Pictures - **<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Fqw8oChA6DximiHX2>**

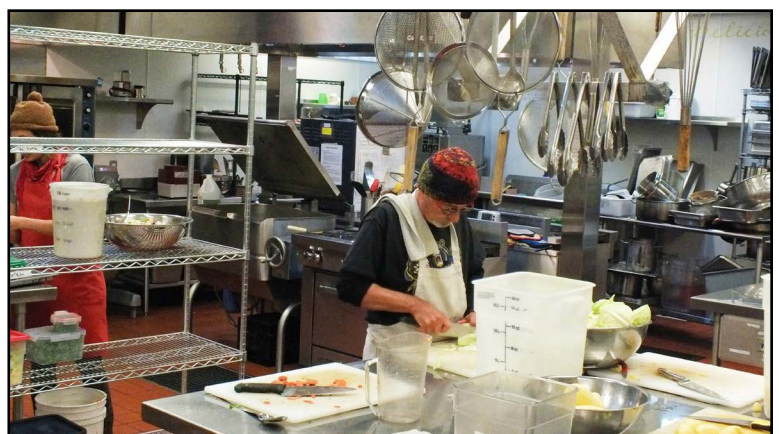
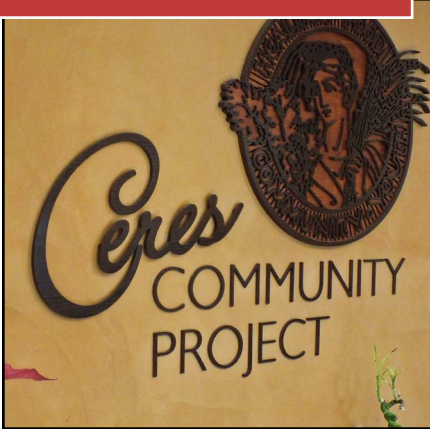
10,000 Buddhas

More Pix Online - See Page 9 for Link



Ceres Visit

More Pix Online - See Page 9 for Link



Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club

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Ride Info Hotline - Coming Soon

Ride Info MeetUp Page - <https://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Riders-Motorcycle-Club/>

Wear Your Gear! Club Gear that is.... Contact Wade to order RRMCM hats & shirts!

General Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00^{pm} and located at China Village, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati (Central Cotati exit, one block west.) Come early & have dinner!

Sponsors

Northbay Motorsports	Santa Rosa	Honda, Kawasaki	707-542-5355 northbaymotorsport.com
Cycle West	Rohnert Park	Honda, Suzuki	707-769-5240 cyclewest.net
Penngrove Motorcycle	Penngrove	Harley Service	707-793-7993 penngrovmotorcycleco.com
K&B Motorsports	Petaluma	Yamaha, Kawasaki	707-763-4658 kandbmotorsports.com
NorCal Powersports & Marine	Santa Rosa	Harley, Victory, Can-Am	707-527-1515 norcalpowersports-marine.com
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Bike Bandit	Online	All makes	bikebandit.com

See Sponsor Page on our website for discount details