



Redwood Riders Review

October 2020

Happy Halloween



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"Prez Sez..."

by Gretchen Tomm - President

Greetings fellow Redwood Riders!

It's been a crazy 2020! Between rain early in the year, then Covid and then fires it has been difficult to get out and ride as a group. But we made it to October while still enjoying a lot of fun rides.

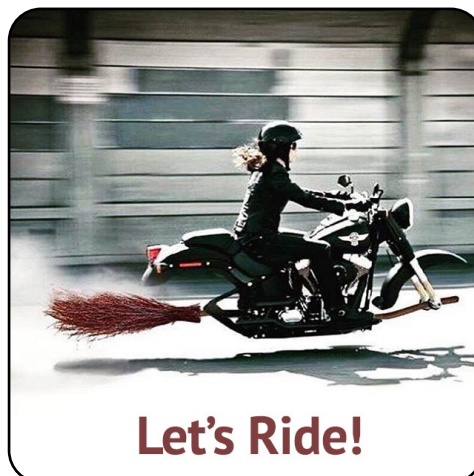
Thanks to all our road captains for their dedication to making rides happen. It required some work finding rest stops, restaurants open for lunch and routes that weren't burned.

At our zoom board meeting last week, we made decisions on how our club will proceed in 2021. Since we are not having monthly meetings to elect new officers and don't know when we will have monthly meetings again, we decided to keep the current officers for 2021. Our Tours & Events Officers are stepping down after 2 years. A BIG THANK YOU! to Jen and Dan! We do have a couple members interested in this position.

Another change moving forward is that we will have a simpler newsletter, as we don't want to overwhelm our Media Mistress. Road Captains will do a ride report after the rides they lead, hopefully with pictures, and or videos. These will be sent out to all current members plus uploaded to the [RRMC website](#). It's always fun to see who went on the rides and where we rode.

Finally, our Annual After Holiday Party has been officially cancelled. It is just not logistically feasible to hold this gathering and do it safely. It has always been a great fund-raiser for Ceres as well as a fun event and will return as soon as it is safe to do so.

In The Wind - Gretchen



Let's Ride!

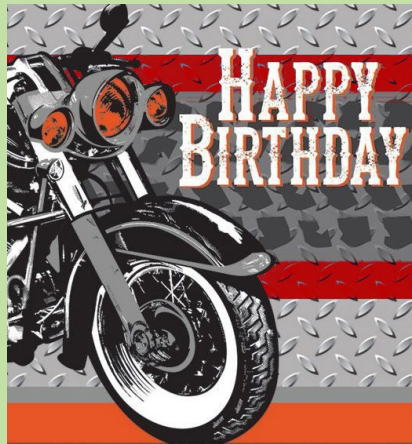
Membership

by Melisa Brown - *Membership Director*

Membership

JULY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Cathy Calleja
Candace Gable
Martha Saly
Cheryl Salzmann
Caron Schwedhelm
Vicky Weber



AUGUST BIRTHDAY WISHES

Robert Gilford
Tresha Holloway
Conci Mack
Dominic Nuccio
Gretchen Tomm
Eric Walters

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES

Robyn LaMantia
Wade Roberts
Ken Sutton

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY WISHES

Tom Cooke
Doug Drake
Daryl Frandsen
Farlan Salzmann
Julee Sherman
Dan Shilling
Jennifer Shilling



MEMBERSHIP

Paid Memberships	56
Co-Riders	16
Provisional Members*	8
TOTAL	80

RIDER STATISTICS

Men	49
Women	15

**New Riders & Co-Riders 2020*



NEW MEMBERS

Robin Castiglia
Martin Cazares
James & Robyn Hamilton
Caron Schwedhelm

Safety Report

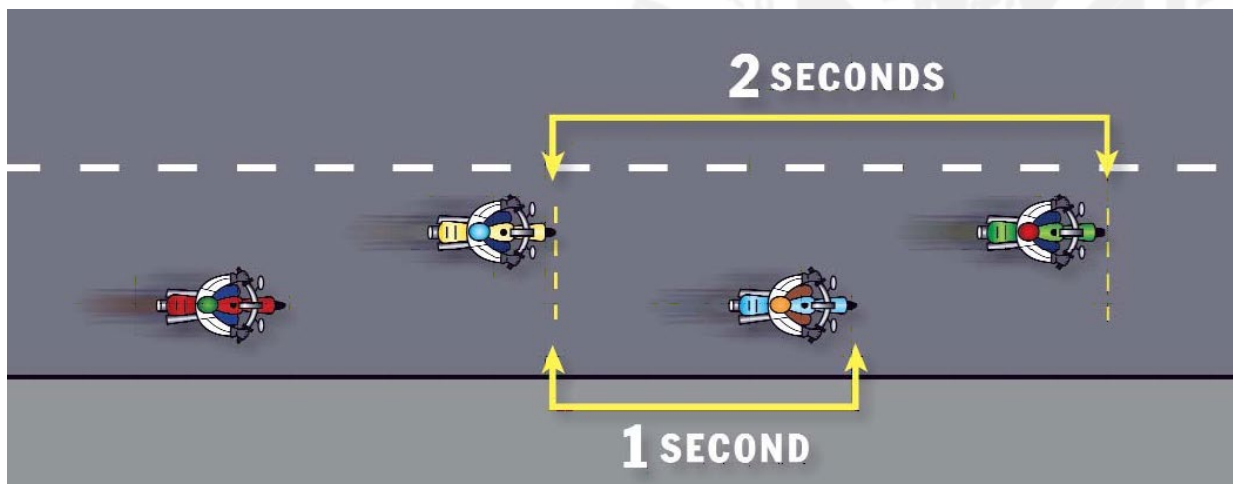
“BMW George” Homenko - *Safety Officer*

It's Not Easy Being A Road Captain!



Speaking for myself, as a road captain and also as your safety officer I wanted to go over some concepts to make my job of being road captain easier to do. These are things I have observed now that I am in my third year as a captain. I also want to say that this is not a perfect science. Some of the rules are hard to follow. Hopefully some of the other road captains will chime in and help with this discussion in future articles.

As a road captain I always need help from the group to make a good ride. This especially true when the group gets large, say over 10 bikes and lately with the Redwood Riders larger groups have become the norm. It is important the group tries to stay tight using the 2 second rule. If the group spreads out too far you can't see the sweep or sometimes even the mid sweep. It gets even more difficult to see the rear bikes when we are on a twisty road and the group is in single file. At that time I hope for a stop sign or a slow truck to let the group bunch back up so I can again see the rear.



Riding Distances

In theory, the way it is suppose to work is if you can't see the bike behind you in the group you are to slow down until you can. Then the bike in front of you sees that you have dropped back and they in turn drop back and so on until it reaches the captain. I have seen this work with a small group of 4 to 6, but I have rarely seen it work in a larger group. And in a large group helmet communications are stretched to the point of unintelligible static. The way I have and will handle it is if there has been no sighting of the sweep in the last 20 minutes or so, I will pull to the side of the road to be sure all the bikes are still in the group.

When pulling off to the side of the road, I try to find a paved spot to stop. I know we have some adventure riders that are thinking but why? The why is some of our cruising bikes which are fully loaded, don't do well on gravel and it gets all that chrome dirty. I had to put a Harley dig in somewhere.

Safety Report

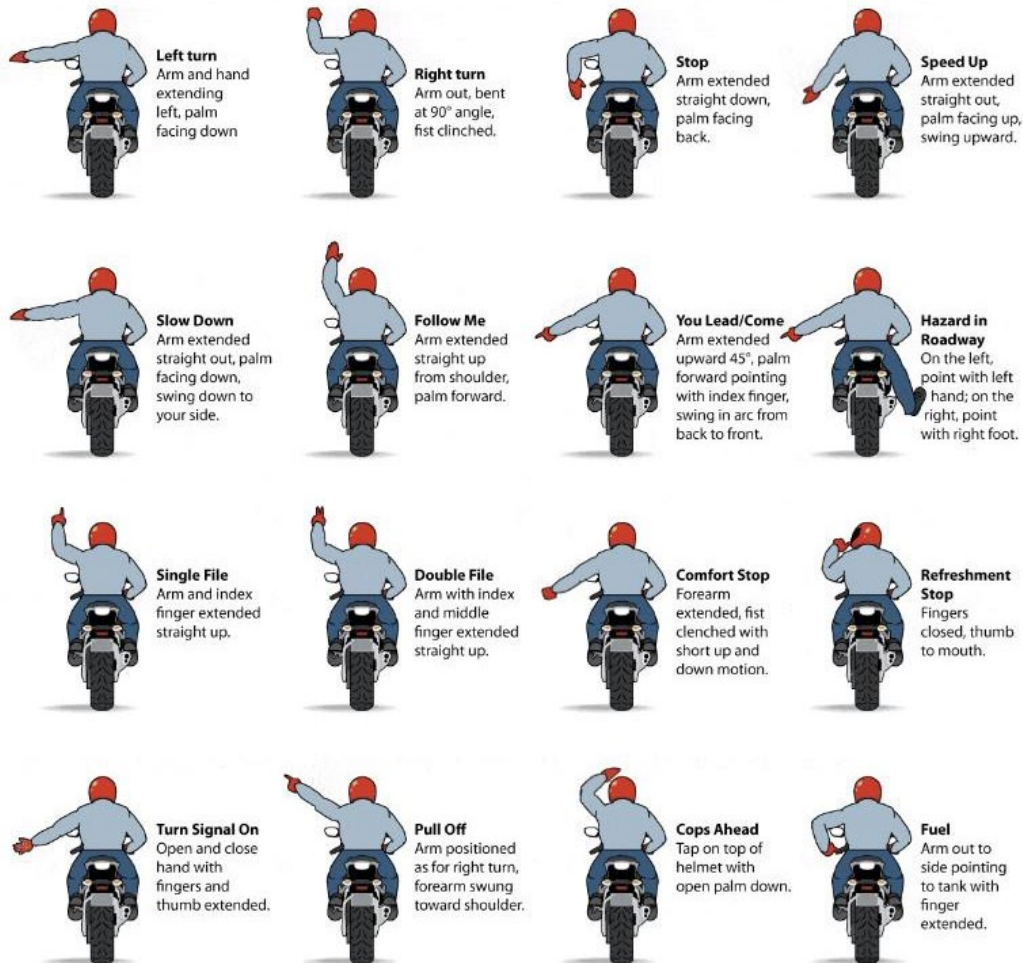
I will, of course, reduce my speed if I feel the group is spreading out. When stopped I will routinely ask the riders in the group how is my speed. If you ever feel that you don't want to talk in front of the group please take me aside. I will always accommodate the person that wants to go slower. No one wants to endanger any of our riders. These rides are social and if you want to go fast no one is stopping you. We can meet you at a stopping point ahead or wave as you get a ticket. Just don't expect everyone else to do the same.

If you ever plan to quit a ride, be sure to tell the sweep and or the road captain ahead of time. No one wants to wait on the side of the road while someone back tracks looking for you.

I always try to hold a steady speed. Usually 5 miles over the speed limit. My theory is it's under a ticket pull over speed and most riders are fairly comfortable with the speed. I like to see the scenery and I can at that speed.

Last but not least, please pick your position in the group when we first start out or as we leave a rest stop. Do not change your position in the group as we ride. This usually screws up everyone else's position back down the line. It's a newbie maneuver and very tacky.

And just to help Robyn fill up the newsletter here is an explanation of the hand signals:



Tours & Events

by Dan & Jennifer Shilling - *Tours & Events Directors*

Ride Reviews & Upcoming Rides



OCTOBER RIDES & EVENTS

All Rides Meet at Shari's - Meet @ 9:00^{AM} KSU @ 9:30^{AM}
Except Where Noted

Wednesday October 14th - **Twisty Road Ride Brown Bag Lunch;**
Road Captain: George Homenko

Sunday October 18th - **Capay;** Road Captains: Gretchen Tomm & Wade Roberts

Friday October 23rd - Sunday October 25th - **Topaz Lake 3-Day Ride;** Road Captain: Dan & Jen Shilling
MEET @ 7:00^{AM} KSU @ 8:00^{AM}

Lodging:

Friday October 23 - Best Western Topaz Lake 775-266-4661

Saturday October 24 - Best Western Plus Sonora Oaks 209-533-4400

No General Meeting

----- *Your Tours & Events, Dan & Jen*

EDITOR'S NOTE:

While we will attempt to adhere to our published ride calendar, this may not be possible due to many factors such as the availability of restaurants, bathrooms, etc. If possible, we will notify you in advance of any changes, **but we may need to make last minute adjustments to either the route or lunch stops on the day of the ride.** We may opt to do brown bag lunches if outdoor restaurant dining is not available or feasible. Ladies.... I recommend you bring TP in case restrooms are closed and we need to resort to outdoor bush usage. 😊

While not riding, we will practice safe procedures; physical distancing of 6 ft., face masks, etc.

We know most of you want to start riding again but it is still not recommended we meet in large groups (more than 10 people). Depending upon the turn out for each ride, it may be necessary to break the ride into smaller groups or deem the ride an unofficial club ride with each rider participating at their own risk.

Our monthly meetings at China Village are still suspended for the foreseeable future.

Your patience and understanding are much appreciated while we work through the logistics to get back on the road safely.

Rides & Events October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 STEWARTS POINT Road Captain: <i>George</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU
<div> <p><i>Check the MeetUp site for updates & last minute changes!</i></p> </div>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Twisty Road - Brown Bag Road Captain: <i>George</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU	15	16	17
18 CAPAY Road Captains: <i>Gretchen & Wade</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU	19	20	21	22	23 TOPAZ LAKE Road Captains: <i>Dan & Jen Shilling</i> 7:30 ^{AM} Meet 8:00 ^{AM} KSU	24 TOPAZ LAKE
25 TOPAZ LAKE	26	27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN

Tom's Take

by Tom Cooke - *Contributor*

Ideal Ride Length?



The Redwood Riders club has historically done dozens—even hundreds—of incredible day rides. We are so fortunate to live in a part of the US that offers a rich variety of scenic beauty. Vineyards, rocky coastline, ancient redwood forests, the Delta, and more. We've ridden those locations many times, as their natural beauty never seems to wane.

Beyond our day rides in Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Napa, and Marin counties, the vast reaches of our beautiful country awaits. We've ridden north to Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, and British Columbia, as well as eastward to the spectacular parks of southern Utah, Nevada, and Colorado multiple times. These rides are world class tours and they require 9 or more days to complete.

But wonderful short rides are also on the Club's menu.

We do 2-night rides into southern Oregon for our memorable jet boat outings to Gold Beach and beyond. Two- and three-day rides into the Sierra Nevada mountains are another example of a short tour many of us have enjoyed together.

Just recently we did a 2-day 1-night ride to the Gold Country and the Delta.

The 1- and 2-overnight rides offer a nice compromise to our members, who for a variety of reasons, find the 9-day and longer rides not feasible, and the day rides a bit like Groundhog Day. Spending 1 or 2 nights out require less time and expense than the long rides, but more variety than our day rides.

Which of these timetables make for the best rides? Any and all of them, depending on our circumstances. If we can dedicate the time and money for the long tours, how wonderful! Our 2- and 3-day rides (Oregon, Sierra Nevada, Mother lode) add some variety, but are not huge commitments. And of course, our trusty one-day rides are our bread and butter, which most of our group regularly enjoys.

In truth, any and all of these rides offer spectacular scenery and a great getaway. It really depends on how the rest of our lives compete with, or compliment, the rides we choose. And these life circumstances change with time. So next year, we may be able to do rides that we could not do this year.

So viva Redwood Riders for providing variety and opportunity for us to enjoy our chosen pastime of motorcycle riding! Our club officers and our ride leaders deserve a huge shout-out for doing the organizational work, planning, and coordination to make our rides possible.

Over and Out, Tom



Ceres Community Project Amazon Smile Program

Don't forget to sign up with Amazon Smile and select The Ceres Community Project as your Amazon Smile charity of choice. It's easy, fast and Amazon will contribute 0.5% of EVERY PURCHASE to Ceres. You shop - Ceres receives! A true win-win!

Sign up at <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Blast from the Past (President)

by “Big” Ben Johnstone - *Past President*

Lesson In Safety



I think I am doing everything right and then something happens. On September 8, I was hit by another motorcycle. I was leading 3 motorcycles North on Highway 1 with 2 other motorcycles trailing. The air quality was marginal, and I noticed a cloud of what I believed to be smoke moving west along River Road, through Jenner, and out to sea. Rather than ride into this smoke, I decided that it was time to turn around and head for home. The parking area for Shell Beach was just ahead, so I put on my turn signal and prepared to turn left into the parking lot. I had just purchased and installed very bright LED signals onto my saddlebags because I was concerned that the stock lighting was not noticeable enough. As I started my turn the last motorcycle in our line was passing everybody (across a double yellow) and clipped my front fender instantly pushing my bike to the ground as he performed a instant dismount and slid into the ditch on the left side of the road. The passing rider was 19 years old and had owned his bike for 3 weeks. He had a temporary license, so he hadn't taken a motorcycle training course yet.

What lessons are to be learned from this crash?

1. Don't cross the double yellow. This is easy to say, but motorcyclist often do this, and the double yellow in California is used more often than may be absolutely necessary. Nevertheless, it is most often there for a purpose. In this case it was because there was a intersection on highway 1 and the entrance to the shell Beach parking lot.
2. When passing, make sure you are fully aware of the road ahead. The offending biker should have noticed the intersection as well as my bright turn signal. The 3 riders immediately following me all saw my turn signal.
3. Be wary of “target fixation”. When I was struck, I was very close to the center line. The passing bike did not appear to be taking evasive maneuvers since he was not to the left of his passing lane. Given his inexperience and my bright turn signals, I assume he saw the impending danger and then stared at my bike, not looking at his escape route. He could have pulled farther left, gone to my right, or braked hard back in line. There were no skid marks, so it appeared that he was not braking.
4. Check your surroundings before making a turn. If I had looked in my mirrors, I could have seen him making his move and stopped to allow him to go by, even though he was in the wrong.
5. Safety is your responsibility. There are a lot of people out there who are not acting rationally. Don't assume that everybody is riding as safe as you are.
6. There was something else that happened, and while I don't think it can be considered a cause of the accident, I think it bears mentioning. There was a larger than normal gap between me and the bike immediately behind me. This caused me to travel slower than I otherwise would have and caused a bigger back up behind my group than if I had been traveling faster. This would not have made a difference to the young person wishing to pass, but it probably would have made it safer for him to pass a compact group than a group spread out. On the other hand, the gap gave him a lot of room to brake and fall back in line.

RRMC Pix Online**Ride & Event Photos Links****Stewarts Point Loop:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/E7vbwxsb91HY5nVP8>**Calpella:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wEtsmfEXfO8AnM3LA>**Yellowstone:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/89OMcoTzJKetBBTz5>**Oregon:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nMpVg5Spw9HwZXJG8>**Ft. Bragg:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Pn1cuaNCTkAeYTD97>**Noyo:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Ah9qbCX7bPdNRULm6>**Gold Country:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5JhjV39yIWgSsRkV9>**Lake County:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/WLgVUVYw6z6FNSBg8>**Clear Lake:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5Timp9S7RWTxaH96>**Utah:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CryAL9mM79C4MXcD6>**Stinson Beach:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DxTNeUFGORPBnzNLA>**February Meeting:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AjhFENcBGUth3zSf9>**Alice's Restaurant**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/rPaMTUxFachGxkkT9>**Calpella:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/V2zPosUtUaZlynLv5>**Gualala:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uTBpwbGsaCmdZk8R9>**January Meeting:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xaVx4FFW45cFa4es6>**After Holiday Party:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/eVmHPnq9gVwSStEP7>**Coppola Winery:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CiG3quykywT2N8ba6>**Cache Creek:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/HrF2xqvojkpMvhVS8>**2019 PHOTOS****December Meeting:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9iwVGt42BVDvgrFYZ>**Cloverdale Toy Run:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3Cn4C1qP6zyDUGvu8>**RKA Food Drive:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/RNW3pKY3pBMEQonF7>**November Meeting:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KqxjvIjhDRX7tdxDA>**Clear Lake Ride:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/46wj9UfSS1Q3rsy5A>**Boat Trip & Ice Cream Ride:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/dH9ozCzp5D9NbtP67>**October Meeting:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tT2Pk5H5cB4LUUk48>**Power Outage Ride:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/FMy4iWJMBPRoevzq6>**Woodland:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/FStiPVvBXGt4JX436>**Oregon Adventure:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tB4HEcKBpYvMB3bH8>**September Meeting:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8Mrh7cDhezZ4bxLg6>**Western Railway Museum:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/W3s3nb2Tjk4xSpTv5>**Bale Grist Mill:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jNZ2PW1cbjkzG4wS6>**August Meeting:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KF9hUnkJGN389YzG6>

Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club

PRESIDENT:	Gretchen Tomm.....	President@redwoodridersmc.com
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SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Rosalie Mack	smoke signals
PAST PRESIDENT:	Ben Johnstone.....	MemberAtLarge@redwoodridersmc.com
MEMBER AT LARGE:	Wade Roberts.....	MemberAtLarge@redwoodridersmc.com

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

Wear Your Gear! Club Gear that is.... Contact Gretchen to order RRMHC hats & shirts!

**REDWOOD
RIDERS**
Est. 1996
North Bay Counties