



Redwood Riders Review

November - December 2020



IN THIS ISSUE

"Prez Sez"

• 1 •

In Memory of Graham

• 2 •

Membership Report

• 3 •

Safety Report

• 5 •

Tours & Events

• 6 •

Tom's Take

• 7 •

Blast From The Past Prez

• 8 •

Photo Album Links

• 9 •

Credits & Contacts

• 12 •

2021 Membership Form

• 13 •

"Prez Sez..."

by Gretchen Tomm - President

Happy Holidays!

2020 has been a very crazy year and I am looking forward to 2021. Fortunately, we have been able to ride quite often and enjoy our friends. Let's hope next year will be a less challenging year for all. Regarding restrictions, until further notice we must continue to wear masks and social distance to continue our rides safely.

I am extremely pleased to announce that we have a new Tours & Events Officer, Heidi Bigall, who has stepped up with assistance from Wade Roberts. Thank you both! They will help the road captains in leading their rides in 2021. Speaking of Tours & Events, we had a road captain's meeting on November 29th to plan next year's adventures however not all our road captains were able to attend which left some vacate spots for rides. Please contact me or Heidi ASAP if you are interested in

leading any of our club rides for 2021. We would like to get our 2021 calendar filled out so we can publish it to our members and post it on our website.

And that brings me to the last bit of business...Membership renewal. Everyone needs to renew their annual membership if they want to continue receiving club emails and newsletters. Annual membership is a mere \$24 per year, and for that you get lots of fun adventures and memories. The renewal form is at the end of this newsletter or on our website. Simply download the form, fill it out, enclose your check for \$24 and mail it off to Melisa at the address on the form.

In The Wind - Gretchen "Mz. Prez"



Graham Balfour - In Loving Memory

Graham Wylie Balfour 1931- 2020

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pressdemocrat/obituary.aspx?n=graham-wylie-balfour&pid=197220803&fhid=20311>

Graham was born in Michigan, spent some of his life in New Mexico (which he likened to the biggest cat box he ever saw), honorably served our country in the United States Navy and spent the majority of his long life here in Santa Rosa.

Like many of us, he discovered the joys of riding early in his life. He was a devoted rider right up until the end. He is known to have owned at least 15 bikes and loved them all. As a practical man who loved riding too much to give it up to age, he rode a Can Am Spyder, a trike, for the last few years of his riding career. When he was not riding, he was RVing. He "wrote the book" on good time RVing and shared his knowledge with many novice RVers.

He was a devoted member of the Redwood Riders from 1997 until his recent passing. He also faithfully attended club meetings and always showed up wearing a big smile, friendly conversation and his signature leather vest decked out a collection of ride pins spanning decades and countless iconic tours.

His loyalty to our club was exceeded only by his devotion to his family. Though predeceased by his wife and one son, he leaves behind a daughter, Rebecca Reibel, son in-law Kenny Reibel, Grandchildren Amanda (Scott), Bridgit (Jeremy), and Matthew (Ashley), Great grandchildren Ryane, John, Jack, Dakota, and Sagan, numerous nieces, nephews and a lifetime of wonderful friends. No doubt his passing will be grieved by many.

We could all do worse than to emulate Graham's love of riding. So next time out, take just a moment to reflect on Graham's love of the open road on 2, or perhaps 3 wheels and wear a happy smile as he faithfully did.

- Tom Cooke



Membership

by Melisa Brown - *Membership Director*

Membership



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your \$24 Membership Fee is due January 1st. A NEW Membership Form also needs to be submitted (yes, even for returning members). For your convenience, a 2021 Membership Form is on page 13; simply print, complete & mail with your check to the address on the form. The 2021 Membership Form can also be found on our website @ <https://redwoodridersmc.com/new-member-information/>

If we don't receive your renewal by March 1st, you will be removed from the roster and will no longer receive future communications (like this fabulous newsletter). We would hate to see you go so ... renew NOW!

Questions? Contact Melisa at membership@redwoodridersmc.com



MEMBERSHIP

Paid Memberships	56
Co-Riders	16
Provisional Members*	7
TOTAL	79

2021 RRMCM Board of Directors & Officers

PRESIDENT:.....Gretchen Tomm

VICE PRESIDENT
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

WEB MISTRESS:.....Robyn LaMantia

SECRETARY:.....Sharon McMillan

TREASURER:.....Michael Turpin

MEMBERSHIP:.....Melisa Brown

TOURS & EVENTS:.....Heidi Bigall

SAFETY OFFICER:.....George Homenko

SERGEANT AT ARMS:.....Rosalie Mack

PAST PRESIDENT:.....Ben Johnstone

MEMBERS AT LARGE:.....Wade Roberts
Ben Johnstone

Effective January 1, 2021

RIDER STATISTICS

Men	48
Women	15

**New Riders & Co-Riders 2020*



NEW MEMBERS

Richard Alpert



Please consider donating to the club charity this holiday season. The Ceres Community Project delivers meals to our neighbors in need and due to the pandemic, their requests for meal delivery has dramatically increased.

Since we have not generated any income from General Meeting

raffles and our Holiday Party Silent Auction, our club donation will be very small.

You can donate directly to Ceres at:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CGXTZMGEV2G5W

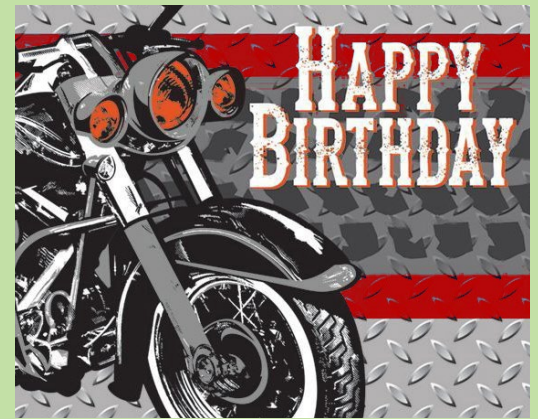


SHOP.
CONNECT.
ENJOY.
amazon

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/>



NOVEMBER

John Barch
Sky George
Tom Holwerda
Charles Johnson
Mike Sherman
Rick Wallenstein

2020 Cloverdale Lions Club Toy "Not" Run



DECEMBER

Paul Benkover
Dee Dee d'Argence
Bill Faulkner
Gary Fisher
Mark Hilla
Larry Petrucci
Phyllis Stireman
Pete Van Rijn



Safety Report

“BMW George” Homenko - *Safety Officer*

Alpinestars Tech-Air 5 Air Safety Vest



This is a review on my air vest that I have been using for a couple of months. I did a review on the vest back in February and was hoping to have it for the summer season. The shipment was delayed for 6 months because Covid and the fact that it is made in Italy. Like I said, I have had it for a couple of months and was able to use it on the overnight Lake Topaz 3-day ride. I have also worn it on all my day rides and have accumulated a couple thousand miles of use. Fortunately, I cannot review how it works because I haven't crashed in that time. Here are my likes and dislikes:

What I like

- I like that you don't need any cables connecting the vest to the bike. The vest comes with an active electronic system that features six integrated sensors (3 gyroscopes and 3 accelerometers) and a crash algorithm that leverages AI to accurately monitor when to deploy the airbag in the event of a crash. Upon the identification of a crash situation, a protective airbag is deployed, providing protection to the rider with a maximum inflation time of 20 to 40ms based on the volume of the airbag size. The impact absorption while wearing the airbag results in a decrease of the impact force by up to 95% compared to a passive protector. The battery is good for about 30 hours before the vest needs to be plugged in and it charges fast with a USB charger.



- Added back protection that hides the workings of the vest and gives the wearer the same protection as provided by 18 CE Level 1 back protector.

- The fact that the vest can be worn under an existing riding jacket that you already own. I wear three different jackets, and all are loose enough that I can wear the vest under them. By having the jacket flexibility, I can use the vest in hot and cold conditions.

What I don't like

- The vest is heavier than I expected. It weights almost 5 pounds.

- It is warmer when you wear it. Obviously, that is not a problem as we ride in colder weather but in the summertime it can be. As I have heard said it is better to sweat than bleed, so I wear it.

- Because of the back protector on the vest, it will not fit into any of my side bags on my Tenere. If I was not going to wear it, I would have to strap it on the top of one of the bags.

All in all I like the vest and I am very pleased with my purchase. Anything I can do to keep me riding longer is a good thing. So that is pretty much my review if anyone has any questions feel free to contact me at ghomenko@gmail.com

Here are a couple of unsolicited reviews of Alpinestars Air Vests. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3JLYQ-LmY>

This guy was wearing an air jacket but the concept is the same. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_S_P1eOjulw

Tours & Events

by Heidi Bigall - *Tours & Events Directors*

Ride Reviews & Upcoming Rides

RIDES & EVENTS

We held our annual Ride Planning Meeting in November and boy oh boy do we have some nice rides planned for 2021! We are a bit short of Road Captains and are looking for a few more brave souls who are willing to step up and plan / lead a ride...Especially Wednesday rides. If you are interested in becoming a Road Captain, please contact Gretchen or Heidi.

We will be publishing our 2021 Ride Calendar shortly so stay tuned!

EDITOR'S NOTE

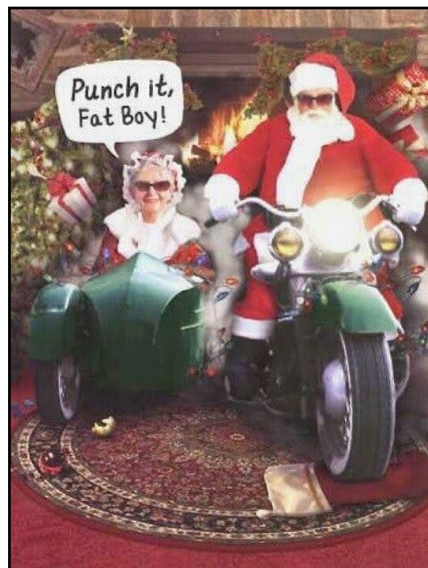
While we will attempt to adhere to our published ride calendar, this may not be possible due to many factors such as the availability of restaurants, bathrooms, etc. If possible, we will notify you in advance of any changes, **but we may need to make last minute adjustments to either the route or lunch 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 continue riding 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 stay safe on the road.



Tom's Take

by Tom Cooke - *Contributor*

Choose the Right Ride!



We all face dilemmas from time to time that require us to choose between heart or head, facts or feelings, right brain or left brain – you get the idea. This is certainly true in motorcycling.

For most riders, if not all, riding is a matter of heart, feelings, and emotions. We are motivated by the thrills, the excitement, and the enjoyment of the scenic beauty of nature. The camaraderie we share with other riders, and the friendships that evolve – like those from our Redwood Riders club – provide an emotional value to our riding. We thank our good fortune for having discovered riding, as these experiences are nearly priceless and irreplaceable.

Yes, riding is a love affair, a pastime of great sensations and connection. At the same time, there is a head element to riding that should not be overlooked.

Here are some head-based matters that deserve attention:

Start with what bike to ride. Variety abounds, with each style and size of bike offering its own pros and cons. Don't be shy about asking other riders who have ridden the bikes you are considering for their honest opinion of the pros and cons of the bikes.

Consider not only what look, sound, and style you like, but be honest about how you will use the bike. Day trips or touring? Off-road or not?

Be honest about your size, strength, fitness, and reaction time. The weight of the bike, the center of gravity of the bike, and the responsiveness of the throttle, all deserve an honest appraisal. Choose accordingly.

Test-riding different bikes, while sometimes hard to arrange, will give you clear feedback as to what is right for you.

Are you comfortable?

Will you still be comfortable at the end of a 2-hour ride or a day-long tour?

Do your feet hit the ground where they should? If not, can the seat be adjusted or replaced with one that changes your posture?

Don't forget to look at your budget in making your choice. Will the cost of the bike, the insurance, and the taxes be within your financial comfort zone?

What about your skill level? Don't buy more bike than you can handle comfortably. If you are a leisurely rider, buy a bike suited to that kind of riding. If you want the rapid acceleration of a Ninja-type sport bike, be sure you have the necessary skills required. If you need a light bike or a trike, buy one. Falling over is no fun and can be avoided by the right style and weight of the bike you choose. Don't be the motorcyclist equivalent of the "all hat and no cattle" cowboy.

Answers to these issues will give you the information you need to navigate the heart vs. head conundrum. Make your choices well, as they are important factors in how much, and for how long, you will love to ride your new steed. Getting the head-part right allows the heart-part to soar.

Saddle up and ride - Tom

Blast from the Past (President)

by "Big" Ben Johnstone - *Past President*

Pandemic Tale



I don't realize how much I have until it is gone!

You may have noticed that I have not been riding much with the club lately. I have had a lot of pressure from my family to stay safe from the pandemic. This has caused me to severely limit my interaction with others. I really miss riding with all of you! It especially hits me when I read the ride reports and see all the photos of our group. I realize (along with Barb) how important the rides are, but mostly the interaction with all of you is to me. When I ride with you, I feel like I am part of a family. We all like each other, and we all know that we have each other's back. Riding with you is the safest, and most fun thing I can think of. I can't wait to get vaccinated and get back with you guys.

STAY SAFE!



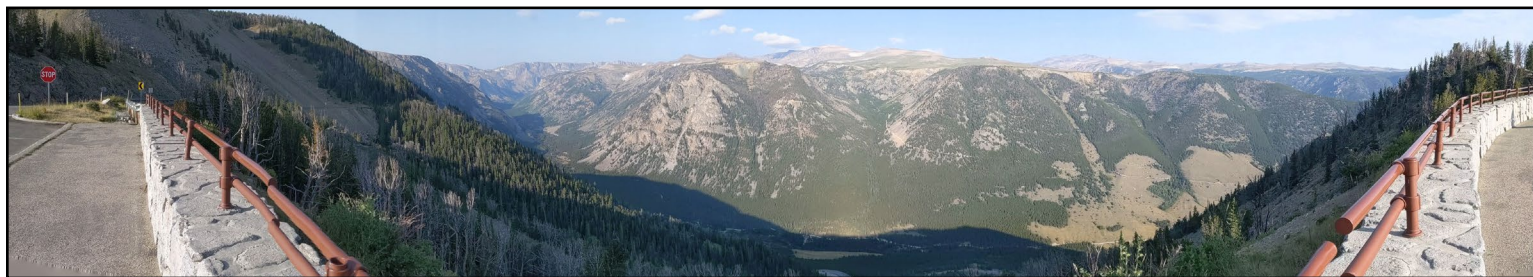
2020 - Rest in Peace

What can say about 2020? It's been a tough year for sure but we managed to have some great rides. Check out the photo and video links on Page 11. Videos will look better if you set your YouTube settings to high definition. - George Homenko



2020 - Rest in Peace

More Pix & Videos Online - See Page 11 for Links



RRMC Pix Online**Ride & Event Photo & Video Links****Follow the Burn November 15:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/HpqJCeas7eHJpM92A>

Old Town Sacramento November 7:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/iNrMaHg3RyLODopr6>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTP52dQU3b4>

Topaz Lake - Sonora October 23-25:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4EztmndWGVKnw4iF9>

<https://youtu.be/4dshYHzG7Nw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvZ6Wf-ekmU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98lGxEyOsc&t=5s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EV6K031fUz8>

Twisty Road Ride October 14:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/65sW6wn3ZXIMgxg97>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLbz6lCplhs>

Capay & Lake Berryessa October 18:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5cyWLnI0bbGNzoK9>

Stewarts Point Loop October 3:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/E7vbwxs91HY5nVP8>

Calpella September 9:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wEtsmfEXfQ8AnM3LA>

Yellowstone August:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/89QMcoTzJKetBBTz5>

Oregon July 24-27:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nMpVg5Spw9HwZXJG8>

Ft. Bragg July 19:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Pn1cuaNCTkAeYTD97>

<https://youtu.be/irx-A202y-U>

Noyo July 7:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Ah9qbCX7bPdNRULm6>

Gold Country June 27-28:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5JhjV39yJWgSsRkV9>

Lake County June 21:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/WLgVUVYw6z6FNSBg8>

Clear Lake June 6:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5Timp9S7RWTrxaH96>

Utah May (unofficial ride):

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CryAL9mM79C4MXcD6>

<https://youtu.be/lxwi4qnsT9I>

Lake Berryessa May 16:

<https://youtu.be/cANfjrPg1gl>

Stinson Beach March 11:

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

<https://youtu.be/nPking6kzl0>

February Meeting:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AjhFENcBGUth3zSf9>

Alice's Restaurant February 16

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/rPaMTUxFachGxkkT9>

Calpella February 2:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/V2zPosUtUaZlYnLv5>

Gualala January 19:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uTBpwbGsaCmdZk8R9>

January Meeting:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xaVx4FFW45cFa4es6>

After Holiday Party January 11:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/eVmHPnq9gVwSStEP7>

Coppola Winery January 8:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CiG3quykywT2N8ba6>

Cache Creek January 4:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/HrF2xqvojkpMvhVS8>

2019 PHOTOS**December Meeting:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9iwVGt42BVDvgrFY7>

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/KqxjvJhDRX7tdxDA>

Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club

PRESIDENT:	Gretchen Tomm	President@redwoodridersmc.com
VICE PRESIDENT / NEWSLETTER EDITOR / WEB MISTRESS:	Robyn LaMantia	VicePresident@redwoodridersmc.com Editor@redwoodridersmc.com WebMaster@redwoodridersmc.com
SECRETARY:	Sharon McMillan	Secretary@redwoodridersmc.com
TREASURER:	Michael Turpin	Treasurer@redwoodridersmc.com
MEMBERSHIP:	Melisa Brown	Membership@redwoodridersmc.com
TOURS & EVENTS / SR. ROAD CAPTAIN:	Heidi Bigall	ToursAndEvents@redwoodridersmc.com RoadCaptains@redwoodridersmc.com
SAFETY OFFICER:	George Homenko	Safety@redwoodridersmc.com
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Rosalie Mack	smoke signals
PAST PRESIDENT:	Ben Johnstone	MemberAtLarge@redwoodridersmc.com
MEMBER AT LARGE:	Wade Roberts	MemberAtLarge@redwoodridersmc.com

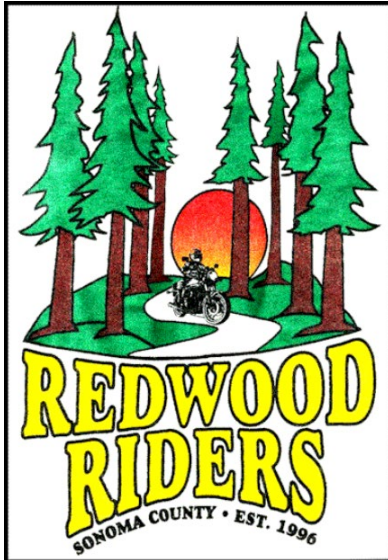
Ride Info MeetUp Page - <https://www.meetup.com/Redwood-Riders-Motorcycle-Club/>

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

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

Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club Membership Application

2021 Application



MAIL TO: Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club
 Attn: Membership Director
 Melisa Brown
 200 4th St. Suite 240
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

PLEASE PRINT**APPLICANT:**

Member # _____

Last Name: _____ M____ or F____

First Name: _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work or Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

CO- RIDER APPLICANT (person that does not ride their own bike):

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M____ or F____

Co-Applicant Email: _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD) _____

Motorcycles owned

Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

How did you hear about the club? _____

Emergency Contact:

The information given here is kept private. It is accessible only by the Club Officers and Road Captains, to be used only in the event of an emergency. **DO NOT USE CO-RIDER APPLICANT as an emergency contact.**

Name of contact: _____ Phone Number: _____

The undersigned (here after known as "Applicant") has requested membership in the Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club (here after known as "RRMC"). The Applicant agrees to abide by the policies and rules of RRMC, current and future, as set down by the past and by the acting officers of the RRMC, stated in the RRMC by laws. The Applicant agrees to only operate a motorcycle while in possession of a valid driver's license recognized by the state in which the motorcycle is owned. The Applicant acknowledges the laws of the State of California require valid liability insurance, and agrees not to participate in any RRMC event unless covered by insurance meeting the requirements of the State of California. The Applicant hereby acknowledges the fact that operating a motorcycle in any situation is dangerous to life and limb and property, and agrees to hold harmless RRMC, all RRMC Officers past and present, all RRMC members past and present, and all RRMC sponsors past and present, from any liability of harm or injury to body or the damage or loss of personal property. Applicant acknowledges full responsibility for the actions, events and consequences arising from the participation of any guest of Applicant. Applicant acknowledges that participation in RRMC activities are on a volunteer basis and at no time is Applicant required to attend any event.

I have read and agree to the above guidelines

Signature:

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Co-Rider Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Returning Member dues are \$24 per year and are due no later than January 31. Make checks payable to The Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club. MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

REV. 2020-11-16