



Redwood Riders Review

August 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

"Prez Sez"

• 1 •

Membership Report

• 2 •

General Meeting Minutes

• 3 •

Safety Report

• 5 •

Tours & Events

• 6 •

August Ride Calendar

• 7 •

Member Spotlight

• 8 •

Tom's Take

• 9 •

Blast from the Past (Prez)

• 10 •

The Last Cowboy

• 11 •

Club Gear

• 12 •

Ride Photo Links

• 13 •

Credits & Contacts

• 14 •

"Prez Sez..."

by Heidi Bigall - President



First, I would like to thank our Veep, Robyn LaMantia, for Chairing the July 2022 monthly membership meeting. I'm sure she did a wonderful job with her usual grace and sense of humor! I also would like to give a shout out to Robyn for her yeowoman's work in producing the monthly RRMC newsletter for the past several years. Robyn undoubtedly has the most difficult, time-consuming position on the Board of Directors.

Summer is in full swing, and riding is at its near best! I was fortunate enough to be able to ride the first five days of George's ride up the coast to Anacortes, WA and then continue on with a smaller group for another eleven days through Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and then home. Never in my wildest dreams did I think seven years ago I would be doing long distance motorcycle riding, let alone just riding a motorcycle! I'm a late comer to this wonderful game and grateful every day that my bestie DeeDee talked me into buying a bike and joining RRMC.

As I have talked about before, Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club is an AMAZING group of folks and offers so many options for rides. The group is only as good as its membership, and if you have any suggestions to improve the club, please feel free to discuss your thoughts with any member of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Bigall - President

P.S.. Thank you George for planning such an amazing Club ride!

Membership

by Melisa Brown - *Membership Director*

Membership

MEMBERSHIP

Returning Members	63
Co-Riders	13
2022 New Members	11
TOTAL	87

RIDER STATISTICS

Men	60
Women	14

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Richard Arrow
Warren Berckmann
Marvin de'Angelis
Robert Gilford
Marc Lampell
Conci Mack
Dominic Nuccio
Gretchen Tomm
Eric Walters



NEW MEMBERS

Randall Covey



RRMC August General Meeting

Tuesday, August 16th

6:00^{PM} Eat & Greet / 7:00^{PM} Meeting

China Village

8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati

General Meeting Minutes

by Sharon McMillan - *Secretary*

July 19th 2022



Meeting called to order at 7^{PM} by Sgt. at Arms, Paul Benkover

Opening Statement: President Heidi Bigall was not at tonight's meeting as she was on the club's Northwest Ride. Vice President, Robyn LaMantia presided over the meeting.

A guest at the meeting was introduced, Randy Cove. Randy said he recently got back into riding and now has a new Suzuki. He turned in a membership application this evening to join.

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

Treasurers Report: Vicky Weber provided the treasurers report. Question was raised about how much our annual club donation to Ceres was. Vickie said she sent them a check for \$1,786.

Membership Report: Melisa Brown said we have 86 members of which 63 are returning members, 10 new members and 13 co-riders.

Tours and Events: George Homenko was not at tonight's meeting so there was no report this month.

Tom Cooke reported about the club's Northwest ride to the San Juan Islands that was led by George this month. There was a total of 16 that started out. The group came back with 9 riders and 5 of the original group went on to longer ride.

Upcoming Rides:

Topaz Lake ride on Aug 13 and 14 is being led Robyn LaMantia. Staying at Topaz Lodge and Casino. No other details at this time. George is helping out the planning.

Long ride to Oregon on Sept 16th through the 19th may be cancelled.

Safety Officer: Ben Johnstone was not at the meeting, so there was report for this month.

Old Business: None

New Business: Robyn LaMantia shared with the members about the recent Harley Demo Days event held at Sonoma County Harley Davidson. She was one of the guides that took different groups out for test rides. Shared her experience of riding an electric motorcycle.

Vicky Weber recently took a 3700-mile solo ride. She shared her adventure with the members. It is now off her bucket list.

General Meeting Minutes

Raffle:

1st prize was ear plugs, travel first aid kit, garden ornament, hand wipes and candy. Sharon McMillan was the winner

2nd prize went to Lynn Anderson. He received Zip lock plastic bags, hand wipes, candy, light, teeth cleaners and a large pickle.

3rd prize was won by Robyn LaMantia which was a bottle of wine, candy, hand wipes, Kleenex and lotion.

4th prize was won by Phyllis Stireman. She received a flashlight, lotion, hand sanitizer, cleaner and a large pickle.

5th prize went to Mark Lampell which included Kleenex, chocolate cashews, Starbucks card for \$10, tooth brushes and hand wipes.

50/50 drawing was won by Paul Benkover which was \$55. He donated it back to Ceres for a total of \$110 going to our charity.

The Donate Back prize that went to Paul was a Yeti travel bottle, candy and a hydrate pack.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Safety Report

“Big” Ben Johnstone - *Safety Officer*

It's About Time!



I was on a group ride recently and found myself travelling at an excessive rate of speed. How did this happen?

The first time this happened was at the start of the ride when the Road Captain drove 2 blocks and got on the freeway. There were 15 bikes, and I was the sweep. Everything was fine at the start, we maintained 2 second spacing as we curled around the entrance ramp. Then the RC accelerated to a cruising speed of 6 mph above the speed limit. It took the RC about 6 seconds to go from the 20 mph entrance ramp speed to the 71 mph cruising speed. During that time 3 more bikes left the entrance ramp leaving 11 bikes still on the entrance ramp. Being the last bike it took me a minimum of 22 seconds to start my acceleration to freeway speeds. During that time the RC traveled about .36 miles. I decided to accelerate to 12 mph above the speed limit, going 6 mph faster than the RC. I was gaining 0.1 mile per minute. It would take me 3.6 minutes to catch up; and the RC has traveled 4.3 miles down the road.

This sounds like a typical scenario. But, what would happen if the traffic was moderately heavy and the bikes on the ride had to slow down in order to merge safely onto the freeway? Instead of entering the freeway 22 seconds later, it is likely that I will enter later, say 30 seconds or more behind the RC. The RC will then be 0.6 miles ahead of me, and it will take me 6 minutes to catch up. The RC will then be 7.2 miles down the road.

Now, let's be practical about this. I am a patient person, but it is nearly impossible for me to let the group get that far ahead of me. My visibility on a busy freeway is about 150 yards. I tend to accelerate hard in order to see the person in front of me, who is doing the same. The result is that several people in the group are travelling at an excessive (unsafe) rate of speed. This happens not only when entering the freeway, but any time the group makes a speed change (low to high).

How do we stop this from happening? The first step is to remind the RC that they are not riding by themselves. They have a tail attached to them by a slinky. The bigger the group, the longer the slinky and the greater the snap back speed will be. The RC must be aware of the slinky effect. When entering the freeway, instead of accelerating to cruising speed of 6 mph above the speed limit, the RC should reach a speed of 6 mph below the speed limit and hold that speed until the group is back together. This action has to happen anytime there is an increasing speed limit change.

I have noticed that the number of riders in our group rides has diminished. A few months back a group in the low 20's was not unusual. Now the groups are much smaller. Could that be because people are uncomfortable with riding at such a high rate of speed, even for a short period? It is the responsibility of the RC to make sure that everyone enjoys the ride (not a small task), If you are not enjoying the ride, let the RC know why, and they will make corrections.

~ Ben

Tours & Events

by George Homenko - *Tours & Events Directors*

Ride Reviews & Upcoming Rides



RIDES & EVENTS

Past Rides & Photos

Wednesday, July 6: **Jenner**. Road Captain: Jeff Orr [See Ride Pix](#)

Saturday, July 9 - Saturday, July 16: **Friday Harbor 9-Day Ride**.
Road Captain: George Homenko [See Ride Report & Pix](#)

Tuesday, July 19: **RRMC General Meeting @ China Village**

Sunday, July 24: **Clearlake**. Road Captain: George Homenko

Upcoming Rides & Events

Saturday, August 6: **Peg House**. Road Captain: Gretchen Tomm

Saturday, August 13 - Sunday, August 14: **Lake Topaz**. Road Captain: Robyn LaMantia

Our destination is Topaz Lake on Hwy 395 just over the Nevada Border. To get there we will be riding on some beautiful mountain roads. The trip up will be on Hwy 88 over the Carson Pass. The next day on the way home we will take hwy 89 over Monitor Pass. Both legs of the trip are about 240 miles.

We have 10 double queen rooms reserved at the Topaz Lodge and Casino. The rooms are booked under "redwoodriders" @ \$134.47. We tentatively held rooms on the second floor which is actually street level but folks should mention this when the book if they don't want to deal with stairs. Call 1-800-962-0732 for reservations. Free cancellation 3 days prior to check-in.

START TIME UPDATE for LAKE TOPAZ: Meet at Shari's at 7:30am on Saturday with kickstands up at 8:00 sharp.

Tuesday, August 16: **RRMC General Meeting @ China Village**

Sunday, August 21: **Twisty Road Ride**. Road Captain: George Homenko

As the name states this ride will be mostly on twisty roads. I will say the roads will all be paved, or at least what passes for paved in Sonoma County. If you like small back roads with nice scenery this ride is for you. Lunch will be at the Stewart's Point Store on highway one. You can bring your own lunch if you want or buy one at the store. Total miles should be around 125 for the day. Meet at Shari's at 9:00am on Sunday with kickstands up at 9:30 sharp.

Updates to October Ride Calendar:

Saturday - Sunday, October 1-2: **Chester**. Road Captain Sharon McMillan. Stay tuned for details

Saturday, October 8: **Surprise Ride**. Road Captain: Randy Mack

Wednesday, October 12: **Mystery Ride**. Road Captain: Heidi Bigall (As originally scheduled)

Sunday, October 16: **Delta Boat Ride**. Road Captain: George Homenko

Rides & Events August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6 The PEG HOUSE Road Captain: <i>Gretchen Tamm</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU
<div> <i>Check the MeetUp site for updates & last minute changes!</i> </div>						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 TOPAZ LAKE Road Captain: <i>Robyn LaMantia</i> 7:30 ^{AM} Meet 8:00 ^{AM} KSU
14 TOPAZ LAKE	15	16 GENERAL MEETING 6:00 ^{PM} Dinner 7:00 ^{PM} Meeting	17	18	19	20
21 TWISTY ROADS Road Captain: <i>George Homenko</i> 9:00 ^{AM} Meet 9:30 ^{AM} KSU	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



**August's Member Spotlight is on... ME!
Robyn LaMantia aka Queen Lolly**

Due to my poor time management skills and an insane launch schedule at work, I totally forgot to pick the next Member Spotlight so you will have to settle for my story. I rode mainly by myself or with a few friends when I bought my first bike. I joined the RRMCM in 2016 and have been actively involved ever since!



How long have you been riding?

I started riding in 2008.

Why did you start riding?

I always wanted to learn to ride and in my youth, dated several guys who rode. 2008 was a year of great personal change and growth so I thought... why not buy a bike and learn to ride? I was concerned about the risks and how they would impact my family. Since my daughters were pretty much "cooked" and were on their way to becoming responsible adults, I took the opportunity to do something for myself. I promised them I would wear ATGATT which seemed a satisfactory compromise.

What was your first motorcycle?

My first motorcycle was a Yamaha 650 which was a great starter bike. I was in an accident back in 2010 when a car ran a red light and hit me. I bought a larger Yamaha with the settlement which was another great bike. Once I started taking longer distance rides, I realized it was time to upgrade.

What type of motorcycle(s) do you currently own?

I currently own a 2016 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail. The previous owner installed a lot of performance upgrades which I do enjoy.

What was your favorite road trip?

Every trip I have been on has been enjoyable. I really can't pick out a favorite.

What do you enjoy most about riding?

The sense of being close to nature - the wind - the smells - the sounds. I also enjoy the camaraderie with other riders and all the friends I have met along the way.

Do you listen to music when riding? Why or why not?

I tried listening to music but found it was too distracting. Once in a great while, I will listen during a long stretch of straight road but I really enjoy just being in my head.

Feel free to share any other information your fellow riders might find interesting about you.

I am a closet NY Jets fan.

Tom's Take

by Tom Cooke - Contributor

The Beauty of the Tour

Let's give it up for club leaders who make our long tours possible! They deserve our thanks and recognition.

This year the Pacific Northwest tour was a huge success! George Homenko and Wade Roberts, two mainstays of the Redwood Riders, put a tandem package of tours together. According to each and every club member who rode, the tours were near perfect—maybe even full-tilt perfect.

The routes, one 8-days long, the other 16-days long, provided some of the most scenic countryside in our beautiful country.

First and foremost, the routes were stellar. But what else is needed to make a great tour? Well, it is not all glamorous; some of it is just hours of hard work on the internet.

How about potty stops and gas stops? Good stops do not happen by random. They are planned and often “pre-riden” by our road captains.

How about overnight lodging? Again, many hours of research on the part of road captains made our motel stays as smooth as silk!

Same holds true with restaurants. Research is often needed to locate eateries which can accommodate 15-plus hungry riders.

Another important element of a successful tour is the cooperation and collegiality of the group. Here, the ride leaders set the example by their generous treatment of the riders. Who needs water? Who needs a potty break? Are all of the bikes doing what they should be doing, or is assistance called for? Yes, the ride leaders set the stage and cooperation of all riders follows.



So, if your time and priorities permit, consider participation in one of our club's long tours. What the heck, consider organizing one yourself! The vitality of our club depends upon the full participation of its members.

The more, the better

~ Tom

Blast from the Past (President)

by Gretchen Tomm - *Past President*

Northwest Ride



What a great ride I just got back from! On the road for 16 days, riding in 9 different states, with a new destination every day. The first few days were spent with George leading the Redwood Riders. When they headed south, our small group of 5 headed east. I'm sorry to have missed Tom's bungee jump in person. He's a braver person than I!

Being on the road for 16 days can be challenging, but thankfully our ride went great, bikes ran just fine and we all got along good. Weather was great, with only had a few minutes of rain in a couple of places, which was nice when it was over 100 degrees! Our route took us on some gorgeous roads, through beautiful country sides, with lots of wildflowers everywhere. We loved seeing all the rivers, lakes and lush green all over! Such a change from the dry, brown California. I can't say which place or road was my favorite, because there were so many. Some of the roads I've ridden, others were a new experience.

A couple of special things, my bike turned 100,000 somewhere in Montana! My second Road Glide to turn 100,000 miles. And, I was able to scatter some of my mom's ashes in a place that was special to me and her.

I want to thank both George for leading and planning the first part of my trip and Wade for the rest of the incredible journey. It takes quite a lot of planning to execute trips like this. Thank you both so much for all your time and effort!

Bike is cleaned, so I'm ready for another journey! Where to next?????

In the Wind, Gretchen



The Last Cowboy

by **Don Dickey** (provided by Vickie Weber)

The Last Cowboy:

I rode past you on the freeway. I ride on two wheels. I am the Last Cowboy.

The Last Cowboy:

When you look in your rear view mirror and see that single headlight coming up on you... that's me. Thanks for pulling over and allowing me to ride on by. You are welcome to vicariously ride along with me. I am the Last Cowboy.

The Last Cowboy:

You saw my taillight disappearing around the next curve, never to be seen again...at least not on this twisty, curvy, up and down road. God and some smart engineers built this road... just for us. I am the Last Cowboy.

The Last Cowboy:

I am the guy riding on those knobby tires. I turned off onto the desolate dirt side road. Adventure is my middle name. Where I am going there is no such thing as traffic or people...just wide open spaces. I am alone. I am not afraid. I am the Last Cowboy.

The Last Cowboy:

I often ride alone. The "ride" is all the excitement I need. Still, I wave at other cowboys. They get it. We are the Last Cowboys.

The Last Cowboy:

I ride in the open air. I smell the new mown hay. I smell the apple orchard. I smell the farm animals. I smell the spring blossoms and the fall harvest. I am alive. I am the Last Cowboy.

The Last Cowboy:

I feel when I ride. I feel the hot sun on my cheek. I feel the rain on my helmet. I feel the frosty cold on my nose. I feel the damp fog on my skin. I feel the strong wind. I feel the darkness. I ride out into the sunrise. I ride off into the sunset. I am the Last Cowboy.

The Last Cowboy:

Sometimes I cover ground. I ride 200 miles to get a cup of coffee. I choose the most indirect route. It's not about the coffee. It's about getting there. I am the Last Cowboy.

The Last Cowboy:

You won't find me sitting on the couch. I need action. I need focus. I need to clean out the cobwebs. I need to ride. I need to live. I am the Last Cowboy.

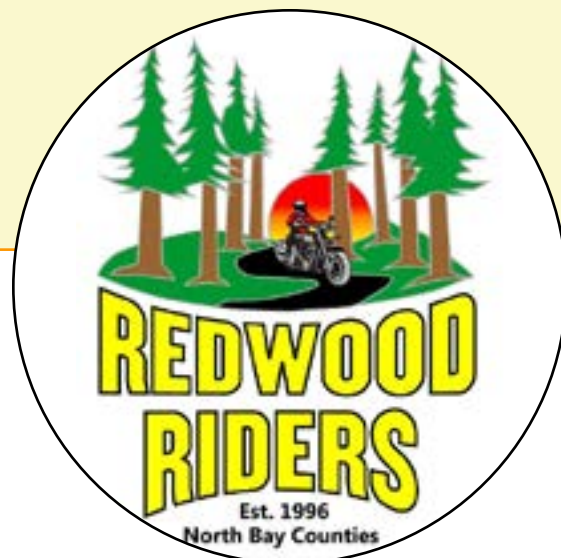


RRMC Pix Online**Ride & Event Photo & Video Links****General Meeting July 19:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8vvgbAizp7p1MbJQt6>**Friday Harbor July 9-16:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/timzB9h8Bryr6Chb7>**Almost Jenner July 6:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/XkB3nYRhNaFetdf68>**General Meeting June 21:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8Wsvcj4MPdytQBib6>**Lavender Farm June 8:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/V72t9Ygb8fawmR4Y8>**General Meeting May 17:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tMMoSf5DW9MkdiuK6>**Locke May 15:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cXwCW1bvBxE93HfYA>**Berryessa May 11:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xeKghGSWk4CAJLp46>**3 Bridges May 7:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vpxqXEqWoLYKu7wc6>**Fairfield March 20:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DbBs7hAR9VcByiP68>**Ferndale/Ave of the Giants March 12-13:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CTfmbkATYBCXPvu99>**Winters March 5:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5kXLA4yzabDYfc8EA>**Ukiah February 20:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wnE5LDvpXifjrj4Ca7>**After Holiday Party February 19:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/11m9qAF3acXTXzcg7>**2 Birds Cafe February 9:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AkSA69fDD2LUkKjr6>**3 Valleys February 5:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nJGTp1VcXzE2S5Hq9>**Cabrillo Lighthouse January 19:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xoRPtcDNqVcie8Wc8>**Drakes Bay January 12:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/L4rFwiehi298qDwU6>**Cloverdale January 1:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9DCRGoGmvkCnfnsQ6>**General Meeting December 21:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/CcE13aHN37M1Ww3D8>**Capay November 21:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/W4vcMC4bT9rtChs76>**Clear Lake November 6:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pe1fM2HJnJHk9MiXA>**General Meeting October 19:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AUubjuZswV4plqpX7>**George's Boat Ride October 2:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EXuibp9fkaJVtoGe6>**General Meeting September 21:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/2Txgb3Mx3EuVdaEC9>**Ft. Bragg September 19:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ufUrrTgcyxJCqyxT6>**Williams September 4:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/D69EA2Zyk2sdh4tu7>**Twisty Mt. Tam August 25:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/eaj5ny4rXDdDkjpjSA>**General Meeting August 17:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/p3L1o1DdKNngsXgs7>**Woodland August 15:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/7C8H2RBboMTxbGCo9>**Rio Vista August 7:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/QkWGsuZU3vQjHqaj6>**Gold Beach July 23-25:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/1V7YUdpzM9SXsZtNA>**General Meeting July 20:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Uy9tpKqV8pj5Knd39>**Lakeport July 3:**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/95Vx7Mjjg4D3Z3W46>

Club Gear

RRMC CLUB GEAR IS STILL AVAILABLE!

But going fast.... We have a limited supply so order yours today! Contact Gretchen for details and to arrange purchase.



Baseball Caps - \$15	Visors - \$10	T-Shirts - Short Sleeve - \$20		T-Shirts - Long Sleeve - \$20*	
QTY in Stock	QTY in Stock	Available in Black & Red		Available in Black & Red	
		Black	Red	Black	Red
3	2				1 - Medium
			1 - Large		
		1 - XL	1 - XL		2 - XL
			2 - XXL	1 - XXL *\$22	



Redwood Riders Motorcycle Club

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PAST PRESIDENT:	Gretchen Tomm.....	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