

MUNICIPAL MOTORCYCLE OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA

The Siren

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE MUNICIPAL MOTORCYCLE OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA

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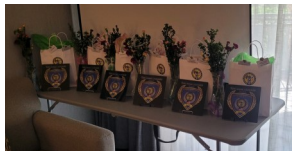
Post Convention Edition

Doug Wayne, President
Oakland P.D.—Retired

Greetings to all on this beautiful fall Saturday morning.

We just completed our 92 Annual Convention in La Quinta, CA. I think if you took a poll of the attendees they'd all agree it was a very successful convention. It was bit hot for that this time of year in the greater Palm Springs area but, the last I checked, no one had melted.

We started on Sunday with early registration in the hospitality room, followed by the Past-President's dinner. In attendance was a small group which included Dennis & Rhoda Brown, Larry & La Rene Hodson, Ed Pressnell (all Oakland PD), Jim & Winnie Davis (LAPD) and my wife, Cathy.



Monday was the official start of the convention. Joining the Sunday group were Baron & Kathy Laetzsch (LAPD), Ron & Leida Stringer (LAPD), Cliff & Mickie Heanes (OPD), Jeff & Celeste Heanes (Honorary), and Larry & Sue Bellusa (LAPD).

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Following the buffet lunch and meeting the group participated in a game, based on the new TV game show, "25 Words or Less". I thought this would be a relatively easy game for our group, but oh boy, was I wrong. The goal was to get two members of your choice to guess five words within 60 seconds. Out of the ten groups who tried, none got their team to guess all five words. Regardless, everyone came away with a prize, with the losers getting a SWAT T-shirt.



Tuesday was the excursion to the Escape Rooms in Rancho Mirage. We broke up the groups, women in one and the men in the other. The women entered the **Mutiny: Skull Island** room and the men went into the **Treasure Hunters: Station 13** room. Each

had an hour to get out of their respective room.



Well, just like the word game, the previous day, everyone failed. I can say with a high level of certainty that you could have give the men 24 hrs. and we would still have been stuck

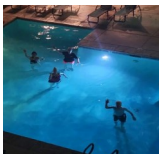
inside that room. I'm told the women fared no better. After we were set free we ventured



to the other side of the outdoor mall to Babe's BBQ for a very nice lunch. For

some of the ladies, that wasn't the end of the day as they had that gambling itch so, they headed to the local casino. Later that night we had quite a many laughs in the hospitality room as we watched comedy videos for hours (a new tradition).

Wednesday was supposed to be the Bunco game day, but a last minute cancelation by our member, who was hosting the event, put the kibosh on that. I elected to have an impromptu pool party with refreshments offered by MMOC from noon to 2 pm. I guess the 104 deg. heat was a bit much for most, as only three of us attended. Wednesday night provided a lot of fun at the President's Ball, with video entertainment and then the door prize raffle with some unique metal art as the grand prize and then a couple hours of dancing. Some partiers weren't finished with the revelry as they took a late night dip in the hotel pool.



Once again I'd like to thank Baron Laetzsch and Bill Weber for their donations, and a special thank you to my wife Cathy, who puts in a lot of time putting together the goodie bags and door prizes, as well as putting up with me during this annual ordeal!

If you missed this years convention, as most all of you did, you'll have another chance next year, in Santa Maria, CA. More information to follow in this issue as well as the 2024 Convention, which tentatively is going to be an Alaskan cruise.

General Membership Meeting Highlights

- Membership currently at 315
- Assets total \$200k +
- "Every 15 Minutes" annual campaign donations will now go to M.A.D.D.
- Siren publishing months will be February, August & October
- We will not reserve blocks of rooms for the convention, nor the annual ride, if the hotels hold MMOC responsible for unbooked rooms
- We are suspending the 5 yr./\$150 annual dues renewal option until further notice. Annual dues will remain at \$36

Tea Time

A little girl is serving her grandfather tea while her grandmother is out shopping.

The grandmother comes home and the grandfather says, "Watch this!"

The little girl goes and serves the grandmother tea. The grandmother responds, "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get the water is the toilet?"

Next Year's 30th Annual Ride

We are considering a "bucket list" ride. The plan is to ship our bikes to a location (TBD) back east. We would fly to that location and then begin our trip westward, back home. It would take approximately two weeks in order to take our time while taking in the sights along the way. This ride requires much pre-planning and a definite commitment from our members in order to make it financially feasible for shipping the bikes. The more bikes, the lower the shipping cost. Once we get a firm commitment from you, a few meetings (probably by Zoom) will be held to get ideas on routes and stops and the best time for the trip based on those ideas.

What we need **now** is for you to contact Ride Director Ed Pressnell letting him know you are interested in going on this cross-country trip. He can be contacted via email at: deweys76@aol.com or by cell-phone at: **510 301-1804**.

For sale, due to health reasons, is my 2006 Honda VTX. 12k miles. Excellent condition; within the last 500 miles, new Dunlop tires, new brakes, new fluids throughout, engine, brakes, transmission, and anti freeze. The bike has custom high end paint with ghost flames and cop artwork, luggage, windshield and much more.



\$5000—will consider delivery.

Bill Weber—775 846 6846—webercommish@sbcglobal.net

MMOC Positions and Duties

I've listed the positions and duties that make up 99% of the work to keep this organization functioning. You will see that many "Positions" are currently filled, however they are all available as ALL of the people in those positions have been there for many years. If you are not sure if you want to become a Director but would like to know a bit more about how we operate you can certainly take on one of the "Duties" listed to get your feet wet. Also, ANY MEMBER can attend the Zoom board meetings, which will also give you some insight as to MMOC's inner workings. I have formulated a list of functions for the below listed positions and duties which I can discuss with you.

Once again, the future of the organization is up to you!

Positions

Director 2-year terms

President (Filled—Wayne)
Vice-president (Filled—Hodson)
Director (Filled—Pressnell)
Director (Vacant)
Director (Vacant)

Staff – no specific time limit

Treasurer (Filled—Gray)
Secretary (Filled—Nishiyama)

Duties

Siren Newsletter Editor (Wayne)
Membership Renewal Coordinator (Wayne)
Website Webmaster (Wayne)
Annual Ride Coordinator (Pressnell)
Annual Convention Coordinator (Wayne)
"Every 15 Minutes" Donation Coordinator (Wayne)
Events Coordinator (vacant)

Contact me for further information:

Doug Wayne - dwayne@mmoc.org

2022 EUROPEAN ALPS MOTORCYCLE TOUR – BY MEMBERS RICH BAILEY & KIM WIRHT

In May/June of this year, 2022, Kim and I realized a lifelong dream of mine to ride the European Alps. Our good friends, Michele and Matt Koch (past Cioppino Feed bartender) joined us for this great adventure. Up to this tour, together, we have graced the highways and back roads of Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Scotland; back and forth across the USA together on Harleys. But this trip was gonna be different; as we would be on different rides which were more suited to the terrain and narrow switchbacks of the Alps.

We signed up over a year before with our tour guide, 'Moto Charlie' Newdorf, out of the state of New Hampshire; with over 30 years of riding experience throughout Europe. His specialty is navigating the hundreds of little known passes as well as the famous ones throughout the Alps. This was not so much a sightseeing tour as it was all about navigating the numerous narrow passes and terrain back and forth through multiple countries. We went with him because he assembled small groups of 6-8 bikes so you didn't feel like you were in a large pack with all the drama.



We initially flew into Zurich, and rode the Euro Rail to Thun, Switzerland where we picked up our rides at the BMW dealership; a BMW 1250 GS & GSA for Matt and me and two BMW RTs for the ladies. We then joined our guide, and 4 more riders; 3 from the U.S and a Brit from BALI, Indonesia for a 3-hour orientation ride through the hills of the Thun countryside in typical inclement cold & rain to familiarize ourselves with the bikes and the curvy roads. The next day, we checked out of our beautiful Hotel Krone and started the first

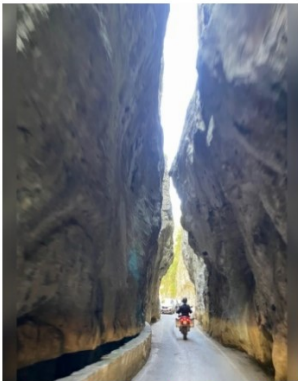
leg of our trip. We spent the next 19 days of a 30+ the early day trips ripping through hundreds of switchbacks, off camber of climbs & descents through the French, Swiss, Austrian and Italian Alps and then entered the notorious French Loop, for 6 days of riding through the French countryside and up into numerous passes which challenged us with severe switchbacks and less than well maintained roads up to the summit of Col L'Iseran and others. Once reaching the top, we were rewarded with spectacular views of snow capped mountains and the hamlets in the valley below.



Each day, we averaged 8-9 hours of riding with a luncheon at a local café (usually outdoors) and two smaller coffee breaks. (Our guide was rather taken with the afternoon pastry strudels and a latte). After

France and Switzerland, we rode in pleasant but cool weather conditions criss crossing country borders.

Rather than 'schlepping' our gear into international hotels, we hunkered down at smaller, countryside bed & breakfasts, small French inns and local Swiss Chalets & lodges, experiencing local cuisine and culture. They love their cheese, deli meats and strudels. Not to mention their taste for craft beer!

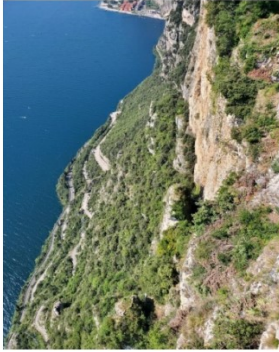


Narrow lane La Gardia, Italy



2022 EUROPEAN ALPS MOTORCYCLE TOUR – BY MEMBERS RICH BAILEY & KIM WIRHT

Ascent to overlook La
Gardia, Italy Looking
straight down



Our journey led us through some interesting passes. One of the first being the Col De La Madeleine known for its route for the Tour de France and the Col de St. Bernard known for, you guessed it, the famous St. Bernard dogs used to rescue stranded hikers.



2022 EUROPEAN ALPS MOTORCYCLE TOUR – BY MEMBERS RICH BAILEY & KIM WIRHT

Later, we crisscrossed back and forth from Switzerland, Austria and Italy on the various passes including Switzerland's famous Stelvio Pass; the highest paved road in the eastern Alps at just over 9,000 ft.

Our route was bordered by cliff hanging drops and 60+ hairpin turns. (Not filmed 'cuz we were riding it) Navigating the numerous very narrow and sometimes less than optimal road conditions while avoiding oncoming bicyclists, hikers, motorcyclists, cars, trucks, and buses and, believe it or not, 30mph skateboard riders could be nerve racking but the journey through the famous Italian Dolomites, Col Del La Madeleine, Great Saint Bernard Pass, Furka, Susten, Oberalp Glaubenbieler, Grimsel, a route in use since the 13th century, it is one of the main roads through the Alps with the Mont Blanc tunnel to the west and the Brenner Pass further to the east with its cobblestone roads and others revealed beautiful glaciers; one that was just outside our hotel window in Chomonix Italy home to Mount Blanc: an enormous ice glacier.

It was crucial to remain focused as sometimes there were mere inches between you and the vehicles you were passing. But the views were worth it! Riding the nimble BMW bikes made us realize a whole new experience in riding as their performance greatly contributed to our ability to navigate severe tight uphill/downhill corners sometimes on cobblestone roads compared to our heavier Harley Davidson road bikes. We probably shouldn't mention much about all four of us receiving speeding tickets via photo capture. One for going 4 mph over the limit and one for going 1 mph over the limit. We viewed it as revenue raising pocket for the small towns.

Best 19 days riding ever! After turning the Beemer's back in at Thun Switzerland, our second leg by hopping a train for the 3 hour jaunt to Venice, Italy.

In Venice, we stayed in a beautiful apartment (4 flights of stairs up) owned by a General of the Republic Italian Army (retired). It opened onto a balcony with a beautiful view of the famous canals. [i We then rode onto Florence, Italy and stayed in an apartment overlooking the Piazza Del Duomo (the Cathedral Square). We visited Michelangelo's David in the busy Piazza Della Signoria as well as other famous arts and sculptures.



View from our room

After Florence, we rented a car and drove through the stunning vistas of Sienna to San Gimignano in central Tuscany. Here we stayed in a 13th Century Abbot, now converted to 4 star Fattoria Abbazia Monte Oliveto Sarl with beautiful vineyards. We walked up to the 12th century 'Town of Fine Towers' to enjoy beautiful and tasty cuisine finished with the local Lemoncello aperitif.



Parking in Rome



13th Century Medieval San Gimignano, Tuscany

Finally, we made our way into Rome. Albeit it was toasty at 105 degrees and parking was a 'Bitch'!

We walked through the ancient ruins of the Forum and Colosseum. They have excavated and opened the underground

chambers where the Romans kept the live wild animals to be slayed by the Gladiators of the time. Not to be missed were the incredible ingenuity in the mechanics and various systems to manage the huge crowds. We were fortunate enough to see and hear the Pope Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio) address the crowds at the Vatican. We had a beautiful 11 days visiting Italy before returning by train to Zurich and then home.

You might enjoy this video recorded by Jon from New Mexico was one of our riders who recorded our adventure with us on Go Pro.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl8czocqR7o>



Mt. Blanc Chomonix Fr.

Mt. Blanc in Chomonix France was a spectacular sight. A mile high gondola that takes visitors to the top of the glacier where you can step out onto an ice shelf and wander through the caves.



2022 EUROPEAN ALPS MOTORCYCLE TOUR – BY MEMBERS RICH BAILEY & KIM WIRHT



Enjoy a warm Bratwurst at top of Stelvio



Stelvio Pass Summit



Riding the Stelvio Pass was both exciting and tested more of your endurance. Numerous riders were facing you oncoming in both directions on the narrow roads.



93rd Annual Convention

Mark your calendars:

Date:

11—14 September 2023

Location:

Santa Maria Inn, Santa Maria Ca.



For the first time in 93 years we are going to hold our convention in Santa Maria, along the central coast. We are staying in the historic Santa Maria Inn, built in 1917, featuring the Olde English Tap Room, the Century Room Restaurant and the Wine Cellar.

The January/February Siren issue will have registration information.

Registration Information will also be available on the website, shortly.

www.mmoc.org

94th Annual Convention

How about an Alaskan Cruise?



We are in the process of securing passage into the Pacific Northwest. We are letting everyone know early so you can get your papers in order: Passport, Real ID, etc.

More information to follow in the coming months.

**If we have any Alaskan Cruise “experts” (inre; do’s & don’ts) out there please contact me:
dwayne@mmoc.org.**