

Central California Classic Cycle Club



"We're stuck on old bikes"



Web Site: www.5csclub.net

July 2007



**July 18th meeting (7:30pm) at
The Dam Diner, Friant California**

Cedar Grove Ride

It was sunny and cool Sunday morning as I headed out on the W650 to our meeting place at the Chevron station at Belmont and Fowler. When I arrived there shortly before 9:00am there was already a good size group assembled. George Copeland was our ride host for the day. Though this was a bike ride Al Madril was there with his pickup. He's volunteered to follow the group in case someone had some trouble along the way. It wasn't long before others started to arrive nine bikes in total. We waited another 20 minutes in case anyone was late getting out of bed before we mounted up and headed east on Belmont on our way up the hill.

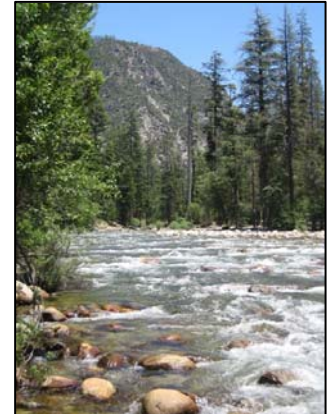
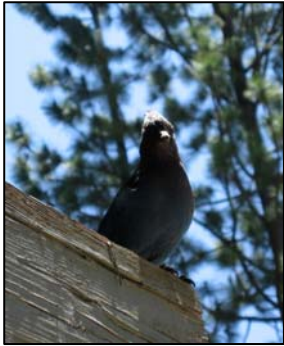


Traffic was light most of the way as we headed to our first stop at Clingan's Junction, where we took our first break. Fifteen minutes later we were on the road again heading towards Sequoia / Kings Natl. Park. The ride up 180 was fun. Traffic was light and the road curvy. I never get tired of this road or the scenery. The temperature started to drop as we climbed higher and entered the park. At Sequoia village we took another break to stretch our legs and have a drink and a snack and more importantly hit the restrooms. All that coffee has to go somewhere. After that much needed break it was back on the road, next stop, Boyden cave.



The ride through Kings Canyon was beautiful as always. Our descent was unimpeded by tourist traffic and the riding pace for me and few others up front would be best described as spirited. We reached Boyden Cave and parked along the river. It was pretty warm down in the river bottom but the breeze coming through the canyon cooled us off a bit. After exploring around the river a little it was time to head to Cedar Grove.

As we cruised to Cedar Grove we were heading up in elevation again and the views of the river around every corner were spectacular. With all the small waterfalls and rapids to look at it was hard to pay attention to road. As we reached the end of the road we met up with Mike Enns who left earlier from his home in Reedley. We stopped to have lunch at the restaurant in Cedar Grove Village. After lunch the Steller's Jays helped us with any of our leftovers, whether invited or not.



It was time to head back to the valley. The ride back was as beautiful as the way in. Descending down 180 you could feel the rise in temperature. The valley was hot now but not too unbearable. Once we all got down on the valley floor we all went our separate ways headed for home. I can't wait till fall; maybe a ride to Glacier Point before the first snow.



***Leilani Koop, George Copeland, Tom Ullmann, Dave Cook, Bob Miller
Al Madril, Dimitri Kostiw, Dave Smith, Larry Koop, Scooter, Janet Ferry, T.J. Gilchrist***

Preface:

When I was a young man, I wanted to buy a motorcycle REAL bad. My Dad told me that as long as I was living at home I could never own a motorcycle. So, when I was about 19 I saved enough money to move out and buy my first motorcycle...a 1970 Kawasaki H-1. I owned the Kaw for about a year and then traded it for a '64 Chevy SS Impala that was stolen 3 weeks later (no theft insurance).

I ended up moving back home shortly after that in order to complete college (read: BROKE). During the time I had moved out, my Dad bought a little Honda 160 (I guess my Dad was just trying to get me to move out!) which my brothers and I rode until I moved out again. After that the 160 just didn't get ridden much and was relegated to a corner of the garage when my brothers moved on to bigger, better motorcycles.

My Dad passed away in 1989 and the 160 migrated to my house and has been on a patio in the back yard under a tarp for "awhile".

Present day:

I've been going to the "5 C's" meetings infrequently for about 6 or 7 years, lusting after the various bikes people restore and bring to the meetings. I've always wanted to restore the 160 but haven't had the time (or knowledge). I figured I'd make it my retirement project.

Enter "BIG AL". Al Madril has been around the "5 C's" since it began. Al has forgotten more about motorcycles than I'll ever know. Anyway, Al & I talk about motorcycles and guns a lot & found out we like the same kind of gear. One day I tell Al I'm getting about a year away from retirement and am starting to think about gathering up some parts for the 160. Al says "why wait 'till next year?...I'll come over & pick that thing up & take a look at it in my spare time".

Al stops by the house & takes a look at the bike and asks what year it is as we put it in the back of his truck. I tell him I think my dad bought it in about 1970 and I think it's a 1967. I tell Al to take a look at it and let me know what he thinks about how much work it's going to need and about how much I can do myself and how much it's going to cost. Off goes Al with the little 160.

Two days later, Al calls me as I'm getting ready to leave for work. "Have you got a minute?" "Sure, what's up?" VROOOOOM....VROOOOM.....VROOOOM!!!!!!

"That CAN'T be the 160!" "Yup!" Al tells me that the 160 is indeed running and that it's a 1965 model. Al asks how long it's been since it was last ridden...I tell him "probably 15 or 16 years ago". Al says it was last registered in 1976...wow...I guess it's been a few more than 16 years ago...31 years ago!!!! I can't believe its running! This Al is a freaking magician!

About 3-4 weeks later, I came home from teaching out of town and step out on the back patio...HOLY S%#T!!!! There's the 160, but it looks better than it did when my brothers and I were riding it years and years ago. New tires...new cables...new chain...new sprocket...new electrics...and an electric starter that actually works. I know there a LOT of other new parts on the bike and I have no idea how much time Al put into the bike, but I know it's been a LOT!!!!

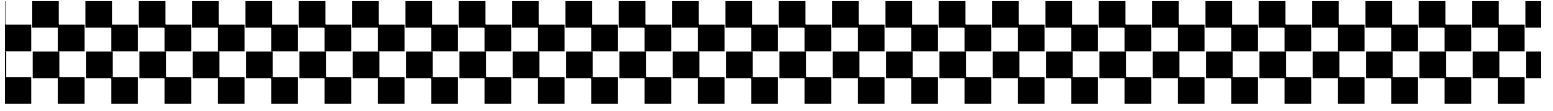
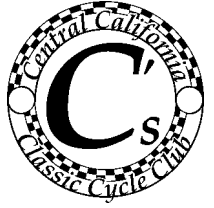
Al has left a list of instructions with the bike about the starting drill. I read them carefully and hit the starter button....VROOOM....VROOOM....VROOOM!!!! I can't believe it! I call one of my brothers and he comes over. We take turns riding it around the neighborhood and can't stop laughing and telling each other we can't believe it's the same bike! I've had a lot of bikes and have enjoyed them all, but this one has a special place in my heart...kind of like an heirloom.

I call Al to thank him and tell him I can't believe it's the same bike! Al tells me what I need to do to get it registered and that I should take it to the "5 C's" meeting....are you kidding??? Now I feel like I can go to a meeting and "walk the walk" instead of just "talking the talk!" I won't be able to be at the July meeting, but will definitely be at the August meeting! I can't wait!!!! That Al is a FREAKIN' magician!!!!!!

Jimmy Johnston



EVENTS CALENDAR



July 20th & 21st

**12th Annual Classic Japanese Motorcycle Show & Swap
Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn CA.
See Flyer In This Issue For Info**

<http://www.cjmc.org/>

July 19th 20th & 21st

**Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix
Laguna Seca**

<http://www.redbullusgrandprix.com/#s=home>

August 15-18

7 Passes Ride and Tour, 2007 Ride for the Heart Ride and Tour This Summer, the Ride for the Heart Foundation will host its 1st Annual 7 Passes ride that will take in some of the best parts of the Sierra Nevada's.

<http://www.motorcycleevents.com/cgi-bin/mea/framegen.pl?return=http://www.motorcycleevents.com/calendar.php&url=http://www.ridefortheheart.com>

September 26, 27, 28, 29

**Motorcycle Races at the Caruthers Fair
Put on by the Fresno Motorcycle club**

http://caruthersfair.com/motorcycle_Quad.htm
www.fresnomotorcycleclub.com

October 6&7

**Pine Mountain Club CA.
FRAZIER PARK FESTIVAL / VJMC 2007 WEST COAST NATIONAL RALLY
<http://www.vjmc.org/calendar/FRAZIERPARK/FP2007.htm>**

October 20 & 21

**5C's Morro Bay Ride
For Info contact Larry Koop (559) 456-3245 or Bob Duncan (805) 772-1553**

To submit articles or information for the newsletter, you can send it by e-mail to squeegle@comcast.net or by snail mail to: T.J. Gilchrist 4444 W. Palo Alto Ave. Apt. 103 Fresno, CA 93722-9000 Phone # (559) 431- 0190

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Cover Photo

The photo was taken at Courtright Reservoir.
1986 BMW R80RT belonging to T.J. Gilchrist

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5th Annual

FRAZIER PARK
FESTIVAL OF VINTAGE
Motorcycles



October 6th & 7th, 2007

Pine Mountain Club, California

Saturday: 7am - 7pm • Sunday: 8am - 2pm

- ▶ Pine Mountain Club Vintage Motorcycle Show
- ▶ Mil Potrero Awards Banquet
- ▶ Tecuya Dual Sport Ride
- ▶ Frazier Park 100 Rally
- ▶ Mt. Pinos Endurance Rally
- ▶ Quatal Canyon Motorcycle Swap Meet



For more information, event descriptions and directions, visit:

www.visitfp.com

General Admission is FREE!



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