



San Francisco Motorcycle Club

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Newsletter - Issue #1



Our newly elected officers take their places

Back row - Road Captain: David Schiller, Director: John Sweeney, Vice President: Matt Young, Director: Red Fred
Front row - Secretary: Nameless, President: Brian Holm, Treasurer: Kalle Hoffman

2011 Election

By Kalle Hoffman

The health of our club can be measured by the number of members who ran for office and their enthusiasm. Some of the members who were running for an office took a moment to explain why they were running for a position.

Matt Young (Vice President): "I think I can sit in the VP chair as well as Eric did."

Tegan Dobbins (Vice President): "Would like to work with Brian this year. I took off last year and would like to get back into things." (Putting on Pismo is taking a break!?! Whoa. – *Ed.*)

Chuck Dobbins (Secretary): "I've held a few positions in the past and I've been practicing my letters and numbers."

Nameless (Secretary): "I like the position and have had the office a number of times in the past. I was the first to email out the minutes and I will do it again this year. Plus I'll buy everyone a drink if I win."

Cary (Road Captain): "You'll have a spirited year, some dirt and some street. I will be looking for lieutenants to help out."

Dave (Road Captain): "I was Road Captain seven years ago. I'll take you to new places and rides. I'll keep it interesting."

Skipper (Director): “I was an officer 17 years ago and I'm looking to take on new responsibility.”

John A. Sweeney (Director): “I joined the club in 1995. I wear my colors when I ride. I take my hat off before the meeting. The club is doing very well. We have members racing internationally, Phil in Brazil, Jen in Spain.”

Santa Bob (Director): “I'd like to continue as an officer. Help keep an eye out on the club.”

Red Fred (Director): “I was an officer for the first 10 years in the club. I like the direction the club is going. There's good energy.”

Listed below, are the results from the 2011 election:

President:	Brian Holm
Vice President:	Matt Young
Treasurer:	Kalle Hoffman
Secretary:	Nameless
Road Captain:	David Schiller
Board of Directors:	John Sweeney and “Red” Fred Johansen

Presidential Profile

Newly elected SFMC President Brian Holm gives us the down and dirty

Tell us a little about yourself? Where are you from? What's your day job? Family? What do you ride?

I was born in Santa Monica, CA, and I grew up almost everywhere as an Army Brat. I moved to San Francisco from San Jose 20 years ago to live with my wife, Corey. We've got two sons, Nat (14) and Ethan (6), both are Mascots, and Ethan in particular can't get enough of the Club. I work in IT for Delta Dental in San Francisco. Currently I've got a Suzuki DRZ 400, a KLR 650, and a BMW R1200GS. The GS is the most recent acquisition so is getting the most attention. All of these bikes were bought and maintained with advice from SFMC members – a great resource for every kind of rider.

How did you hear about the club and how long have you been a member?

I first visited the club as a guest in the summer of 1996. I became a regular visitor, and a trip to Baja three years ago put me over the edge – back onto a bike and into my Prospect shirt.

Why did you run for President of the SFMC?

I love the Club, and will do anything to help it along. It's a great job that serves a great group of people.

How does Motorcycling fit into your life?

I'm something of an obsessive character. Motorcycling and the Club have become the major preoccupations of my life, running a close second only to my family and keeping bread on the table.

How long have you been riding a Motorcycle? Scooter?

I've been riding about 25 years; my first motorcycle was a 1980 Honda CB 400 (early Hawk) that I used as a commuter, and then a short stint on an unreliable Yamaha TX750. After that I amassed a collection of Vespa scooters that topped out between 13 and 16 bikes. A few years ago I was fortunate enough to accompany some SFMC members and other friends on a scooter trip down the length of Baja. During the trip Dennis Casey and Mark Jordan celebrated Casey's birthday by riding a KLR and a DRZ on the dirt up to Mission San Javier (above Loreto.) They came back so pumped up, with huge smiles plastered on their faces, and I had to find out what they were up to. That got me back on a bike, (along with the fact that I'd seen all of Baja that I could from the

pavement) and there's been no looking back. It's no small wonder that I quickly wound up with both a KLR and DRZ.

Some say a scooter is a motorcycle. Where do you stand on that debate?

A silly question, but as far as I know only the State of California thinks that a scooter (of certain displacements) is a motorcycle, and some law enforcement officers are still eager to argue about that. A scooter isn't a motorcycle; a motorcycle is a motorcycle; a bicycle is a bicycle; a skateboard is a skateboard; a shoe is a shoe. All are fun, two wheels are two wheels, all riders are awesome, but if you want points - ride your motorcycle.

I heard you rode a scooter to Italy from California. Tell us more about that.

In 1996 I led a group of six people on a ride from Ocean Beach in San Francisco to Pontedera Italy - to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vespa scooter. We spent 32 days traveling 5,325 miles together across the U.S., England, and continental Europe, (the Alps, in the rain, at night), and on and on. It was a rolling party; we drank all the Coors beer at a bar in Wyoming (and probably still aren't welcome back), we were treated as celebrities in Europe, and had a great adventure. It's a rare thing for most of us to devote a single large block of time traveling, partying, and riding continuously; I highly recommend it to anyone – at least once or twice.

What do we need to watch out for?

Isolation, self-satisfaction, boredom, pot holes, black ice, radar traps, and parking tickets (and if you're lucky enough to ride in Baja, Federales).

What would you like to see the club doing in 10 years?

Riding, growing our membership, riding, making friends, riding, and engaged in the sport in all of its forms (just like this year), and riding.

The SFMC Welcomes 3 New Members to the Ranks!

Jai, Ben and Dave give up details on themselves and what it means to be a member of the SFMC

Jai Decker

Hello one and all, my name is Jai Decker and I am a new member of the SFMC

Here is a little about me you may not know...

- 1) I grew up here in San Francisco in a Hindu-hippy commune, thus the unusual name.
- 2) I am no longer allowed in the Uffizi, Prado and the Guggenheim museums due to getting caught inline skating in their halls (I was young).
- 3) I took a 6 week camping trip across the US and Canada, but it took 2 motorcycles to do it.
- 4) I have been to 52 countries, but have only been forcibly deported twice.

As for the club, I first heard about it from my father who was an avid motorcyclist. Growing up in San Francisco, the motorcycle community was a tight one with lots of families, trips and gatherings and the SFMC was one such group I remember fondly.

I joined the SFMC because I wanted to be a part of a group of people who are exploring the Bay Area and make new friends. As I am getting older, I find the riders I once rode with have fallen to the wayside and SFMC is one way to keep my passion for motorcycles alive. As you all may well know, it is important to keep improving your riding skills as well as trying new types of riding like Motocross, endurance, and distance riding.

Now that I am back in the Bay Area, I am looking to re-explore the area for all that it has to offer and SFMC is a

way to do that. I think by being a part of SFMC, we are continuing a tradition that needs to be protected and further experienced by its members, but also a part of San Francisco as a legendary landmark.

Ben Berliner

Hello SFMC! By way of introduction, my name is Ben and I am one of the newest members of your family. I am born and raised in New Jersey and have been living in the land of make-believe we all call San Francisco for just about two and half years and LOVING every second of it.

I rode my first motorized two wheeled vehicle ages ago and never looked back. However, living in the New York City metro area for all my adult life meant that riding was limited to a small amount of weekends, and living in Times Square in Manhattan for many years really cut that window of opportunity even shorter. I have probably done more miles living in San Francisco than I did during the first 15-20 years of my riding career. And I have the SFMC to thank for that.

During my prospect ship someone asked me if I was committed, and why. I really thought about that and the fact of the matter is, to me, this club is bigger than any one person. To stop and think that 500+ members have been meeting in the same room for some 60+ years is really something to me. I enjoy the mix of old grey jolly guys, young feisty racer chicks, middle of the road folks all with the same love of 2 wheels and a motor that runs.



I was sold the day some guy took a random person who he knew for 10 minutes out to the middle of nowhere. That random person had trouble and without question this guy dropped his plan for the day to help out and make sure the randomness got home safe.

On a personal note, it makes me feel better that in this clubs very first ride, much like my first club ride - the 12 folks did not come home on their own bikes.

For me: it's a feeling of pride to carry on the history as I am the next generation. Regardless of where I am or where I live - I'll always wear my colors.

Dave Simpson

Still qualifying for naps, Dad brought home my first ride, a Montgomery Ward mini-bike. I didn't have the strength to pull the starter, but once running, there was no stopping that Briggs & Stratton until it demanded more fuel – great times, great memories. The rest is history, growing up and riding various dirt bikes and spending Saturday nights hanging out in the pits on a flat track at what is now known as Cycleland Speedway along Hwy 99. I joined the United States Coast Guard in 1981 and over the following years didn't ride much, owning a TT 500 for a couple years and riding quads and three wheelers during my 15-year tenure in Alaska. Through all those years of not owning a bike, I never stopped dreaming!

Everything changed in March 2010 when the dream became a reality and I purchased my current ride. And it wasn't long afterwards; Ian Bardecki invited me to a Thursday night meeting. Overtaken by the friendship and camaraderie among its members, I could see a future connection between the SFMC and me. Words by themselves cannot be enough to adequately express my thanks to Chuck Wagon and Ian for their sponsorship; prospecting is a memorable and necessary journey with the ultimate goal of forever being accepted into the rolls as a member and having the right to call SFMC 'home'.

Trip Report: Cal Moto Ride

By: Brian Holm

I hadn't planned on attending Sunday's Social to Cal Moto in Mountain View, and their ride to Moss Landing, but I'm glad that I did.

Knowing that Santa was laid up, and given the rain, I assumed that no one was likely to show up at all; but I thought I'd stop in at the club house so that anyone who did show up wouldn't be disappointed.

Prospect Ari (Squeaky) arrived shortly after I did, followed by Prospects Caroline and Mole. I opened the club so we could get out of the rain, and we sat at the fountain to review our options. Ben's arrival complicated things - now we had a quorum of members. While a nice hot breakfast somewhere seemed like the best idea, our frequent guest Jeff ventured that maybe the weather would be better farther south and we could head to Cal Moto and size things up from there. (Jeff is planning to participate in the Phoenix ride and so was eager to shakedown his V-Strom.)

Jeff obliged by taking the customary photo out front and we headed for Cal Moto in the rain. I promised to keep it at 70 or less, Ben claims that his speedo never went below 80, so somewhere between Munich and Hamamatsu there's a difference of opinion between our speedo calibrations. We stopped for gas and arrived at Cal Moto on schedule at 8:30. We'd made this our formal destination and so took a picture of the team there.

The six of us were greeted by Cal Moto owners Mike Meissner, his wife Anya, and five others. We had a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. Mike ran down his planned route to Moss Landing, and encouraged everyone to consider the conditions while promising to ride at a conservative pace (with respect to the rain, potential road hazards, the terrain, and the fact that he'd be two-up on a brand new bike.)

Ben and Mole decided to make breakfast in Pacifica their next stop, and the rest of us decided to follow Mike and test out our rain gear. So eleven people on nine bikes headed for the hills. One of the other guests decided to opt out early, so our group was back in balance as half the total of bikes. Mike led us up around Stevens Creek Canyon, and over Mt. Eden and Pierce Roads to Highway 9. We took 9 up and over to Santa Cruz, then Highway 1 to the coast roads past Manresa and Zmudowski Beaches, only to rejoin Hwy 1 just north of Moss Landing. We made our way to Phil's Fish Market and enjoyed a hot lunch on their warm dry (covered) patio. Cioppino, calamari, fried fish, fried clams, chowder, and plenty of hot coffee. As with nearly every stop that day, the rain let up as long as we weren't riding just enough, so that we could kid ourselves into pressing on.

After lunch we parted ways with Mike's crew, they were headed over Mt. Madonna and going to wind up by Uvas Dam, we decided to head north on Highway 1 all the way back to The City. It was cold, wet, and windy. Maintaining visibility was the biggest challenge. There wasn't much traffic, we kept a steady pace and allowed plenty of distance. Internally I was debating the respective merits of a pot of hot coffee at the club house versus a stop at Duarte's Tavern in Pescadero. Just south of the turn off, Jeff indicated that he needed a stop to de-fog his glasses, so the issue was decided. We tucked into the bar at Duarte's under the gaze of SFMC members Kewpie Allen, Meeks Hubbard, Jim Young, et al, whose 1926 photo graces the wall there. Pie and coffee at Duarte's, yum. Some traditions survive for very good reasons. We wrung out our gloves, wiped down our visors, and got back into the weather. Once we arrived in Pacifica the weather was mockingly clear, but no one regretted the trip.

On some days maybe the best riding decision is to not ride at all. If this was one of those days then we failed that test, but our Prospects proved themselves to be intrepid, the ride was without incident, and everyone learned something. It was an excellent route that I'll repeat again - in the summer.

Thanks to Santa Bob for the suggestion, and to Mike and his team at Cal Moto, a good time was had by all.

How to find us:

The San Francisco Motorcycle Club is located at the corner of Folsom and 18th Streets, in the Mission District of San Francisco. We meet every Thursday night, and motorcyclists are always welcome! Meetings start at 8:30 PM.

Find us online at <http://sf-mc.org>

The Newsletter Committee is chaired by Ian Bardecki

San Francisco Motorcycle Club
2194 Folsom Street
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

SFMC 2011 Official Ride Schedule

The 2011 ride season is officially underway!

Please join us for rides lead by our fearless Road Captain, Dave "Papa" Schiller. Where he'll probably take you to places you've never been to before, heard of, or even thought to exist.

All ride details are available on our website at: <http://sf-mc.org/calendar>

Guests are always welcome to join us on all rides!

SFMC 2011 Official Runs

Mar. 17-22	By the Time I Get to Phoenix
Mar. 26	Lover's Revenge (His Lordship in Berkeley)
Apr. 2	A Cheesy Captain's Run
Apr. 24	Easter Marathon, Mt. Tamalpais
May 7-8	Lunch in LaPorte
May 21-22	Sheet Iron or Street Iron (Highway 1 & 36)
Jun. 4-5	Skylines, Boulders & Ice Cream – Clay's Day!
Jun. 17-19	Can You Say Elko?
Jul. 1-3	Foothill Follies / Gary's Backyard
Jul. 30-?	Blind Run
Aug. 13	Ride With the Maniacs!
Aug. 20	Redwood Run (Official AMA District 36 Event)
Sept. 3-4	SRRRA Campout / Hollister
Sept. 17-18	Ride to the Beach (Pismo)
Oct. 2	AFM Racing at Thunderhill
Oct. 9	Memorial Ride / Brian's Song