



LOS ANCIANOS M.C.

Dedicated to those members and friends no longer with us...
In Memory of:



Bill & Nora Steider
Ed Applegate
Bruce Barlow
Roy Bean
Don Berger
Lynn Davidson
Les DeLine
Tom Dowling
Harry Falkenthal
Rick Gordon
Ralph (Scotty) Haskett
Boyd Hjalmarson
Earl Holbrook
Paul Hollinger
Bob Huntamer
Bing Hutchins
Jerry Jones
Ron Jones

Gordon Kessling
Bob Lindley
Romaine (Ski) Maiefski
Dave Mallow
Bud Martin
Boyd Miller
Dave Olen
Bill Paradise
Dave Paul

Stan Peterson
Dick Phares
Ed Reed
Pedro Santana Sr.
Rich Schreiner
Larry Seaman
Bro Smith
Junior Thomas
Niles Ussery

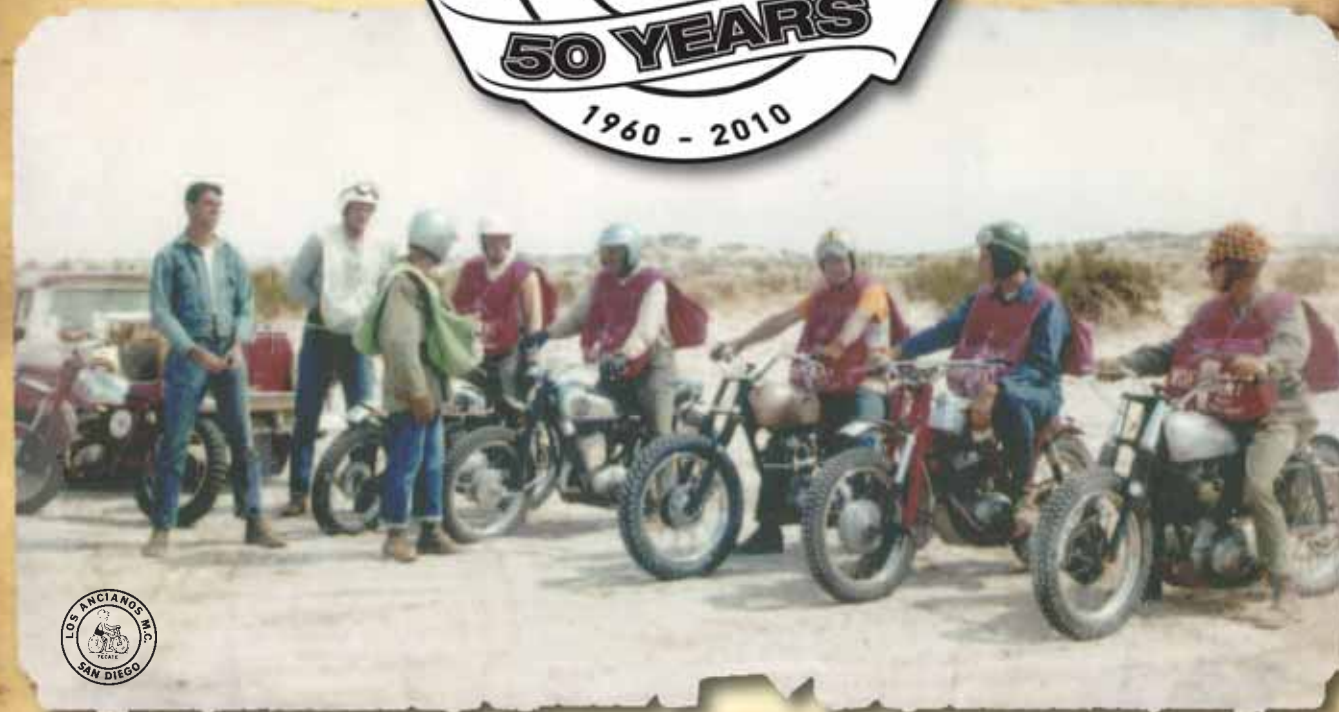


Thanks to some of our Mexican Rancher Friends

The club is very thankful to the Ranchers in the Tecate area for the use of their lands and facilities. Those include Rancho Ramona - Ramona and family, Ranchos Neji - the Eraud families, Rancho El Compadre - the Espinosa family and Rancho Santa Veronica - the Bustamante and Ellis families

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Mag 7 Race Support	Ron Bishop Motorcycles
Vey's Powersports	



Los Ancianos 50th ANNIVERSARY FIESTA

San Diego Balboa Park • Automotive Museum
Saturday Oct. 16

Club Displays, Bikes and History

www.losancianos.com



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The Club's Origins

One day in late 1959, a bunch of guys were hanging around a Triumph shop in El Cajon. Two of that group, Bruce Barlow and Bill Steider, started talking about how the world needed a motorcycle club for the more seasoned, mature enthusiast. A club for old guys! Bruce and Bill decided to meet on January 25th, 1960 to kick around ideas for just such a club with his riding buddies. At that meeting, the Los Ancianos Motorcycle Club was born – and the legend had begun. Since this was to be a club for “old guys”, the name Los Ancianos – the Ancient Ones – seemed appropriate. In keeping with that theme, they decided that prospective members would have to be at least 30 years old to be eligible for membership. That age requirement may be the only single constant rule the club has ever had. There have been written rules over the years and there is even a set of bylaws. Most important, the stated purpose of the club is to organize, promote and execute cross-country type “desert races for motorcycles.” Secondly, to promote and organize pleasure trips by motorcycle to Baja California. Both purposes have been met.

However, this club is not one that takes easily to rules and orders. Off-road motorcyclists tend to be an independent lot to begin with, and these guys were no exception. Over the years, incoming members have seemed to follow these same general characteristics. Being an officer in this club is no easy task. The common bond that has held this independent-minded (some would say cantankerous) group together is the personal joy of off-road motorcycle riding and racing and a love for exploring and enjoying Baja California.

The Club's Early Membership

At that first meeting, Bill Steider was voted in as the “Pres” by the group attending the first meeting which included: Bruce Barlow, Johnny Collins, Ray Howard, Dick Lynch, Bud Martin, Willy Morehouse, Bro Smith and Angie Ursino. The meeting was held at Bill and Nora Steider’s home and club meetings continued there until 1976 and have since been held at several other locations. Dues were \$1 per month, paid annually \$12. The dues stayed at this amount until 2009. Several more people joined in that first year: Ferd Arreola, Don Berger, Leo Doherty, Dick Hansen, Gabe Lynch, Gordon Kessling Tom Sarff and Doug Offutt. Since those early years, the club membership has included over 120 Ancianos.

The Los Ancianos has always been a club, where many of the events involved the whole family and in some cases membership was passed from one generation to another, such as in Bud Martin’s family where his father-in-law Larry Seaman was also an early legacy member and his son Kenny is a current active member. In addition there have been several Father and Son and Brother members,

As the club membership grew during the 1960’s; many of the member’s wives got involved with helping at the races, and organizing family and social events. Those included our first club Secretary, Treasurer and “Den Mother” : Nora Steider, Diane Arreola, Mary Barlow, Dale Barnes, Mary Hansen Joanne Hearing, Mary Hjalmarson, Eleanor Martin, Carol Reed, Janice Sarff, Barbara Petersen and many others.

The past presidents are all to be congratulated for their leadership and stamina to continue to deal with a cantankerous group of Ancianos over the past 50 Years; “The Pres” Bill Steider, Ken Hearing, Jim Hjalmarson, Fred Germaine, Dick Phares, Art Brookman, Bob Lindley, Ken Martin, Ray Abbott, Randy Hall, and our current leader “El Ruko”—Don Chalmers.

Santana Family Friendship

Very early on, even before the club was officially formed, Pedro “Pete” Santana of Tecate came into the picture. One day during a ride to Tecate, Pete was introduced to Bill Steider and some of the club’s founders by Bill’s Sister Mardell and Brother-in-Law

Angelo Alessio, and a long and wonderful friendship was formed. Pete soon became our best friend, patron and representative in Tecate and Baja. Through his gracious hospitality he extended to us the use of his picturesque, working ranch outside of Tecate. More than that, as the head of the Department of Tourism for Tecate, he worked to cut the red tape in Mexico, speak for us with officials, and provided us with a window and introduction into the Mexican culture. Pete’s family became our family, club members attended weddings and parties with the Santanas and they accepted us, rough edges and all, as part of the “family”.

Over the years, in a fruitless effort to repay even a small part of the Santana’s generosity, the club has provided labor and materials to turn a portion of the ranch into a beautiful camping and entertaining area. Set among the oak trees and boulders, featuring patios, fire pits and a covered barbeque area, this section of the ranch has become the “social” center for the Ancianos and the Santana family and their friends.

Pete passed away a few years ago and the club lost a great friend. As many of Pete’s original Los Ancianos friends have passed on as well, the newer members have continued the relationship with Pete’s son Pedro, his daughter Delia, and their families. Times and people have changed, but the friendship between the Los Ancianos and the Santana’s continues.



Tecate Enduro Stop Check

The Early Events and Races

The first major project taken on by the club in 1960 was the building of a medical clinic for the poor in Tecate, Baja California. After a very unpleasant end (read near riot) to a Tecate Grand Prix hosted by another club, motorcyclists were not very popular in this gateway to Baja.

The Los Ancianos wanted to change that, so club members worked weekends and holidays building a –two-room clinic next to the Catholic church near the town’s plaza. Building materials and a lot of labor were donated by club members, and local doctors donated their services, medical equipment and supplies. The famed Tecate Brewery donated medications, and local doctors donated their time to staff the clinic, which was named “San Martin de Pobre”. This was the beginning of a long and friendly relationship between the club and the people of Tecate and the “Diana Bar”.

Our First race – Hot Mother’s Day Run, May 8, 1960

With temperatures in the 100s and mistakenly planned for Mother’s Day, this event became known as the “Hot Mother’s Day Run”. It was a Hare Scramble in the desert with 15 competitors, only two of whom completed the full course. Some of the members made a run down to Seeley for ice so the members’ wives could sell beer and soda, all of which soon ran out. Dick Lynch was in charge of the Saturday night BBQ and seemed to have trouble with the chicken – seems he didn’t have enough light or fire. The next day we discovered that we had been eating “rare” or partially cooked chicken.

Hare and Hounds – Neji, Baja California, Mexico April 1961

The club spent a year laying out the trails for this race course. The marking crew of 6-10 guys used 3000 pounds of lime to mark the course. Back then, white lime powder splashed on the ground was the standard method of marking the route for off road racers. The crew carried the lime in 1 lb. paper bags stuffed into newspaper boy bags slung across their shoulders as they rode the course and tossed out the markings. The entry fee was \$3 and the race was won by Al Rogers on a Triumph. Al finished with a broken foot, but still in first place!

Turkey Run – San Diego/Imperial County Desert November 1962

The first of what would become a club tradition, held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, this race gave live turkeys as trophies. This became a well -known club event, held at several locations in the local deserts over the years. There are probably enough fun stories to fill a book. Here are a few: One year some members ran down to Mexicali for the evening and upon their return the US Customs folks detained them because they were sure all that white powder (marking lime)

had to be drugs. It took some time to sort out and explain, but everyone finally made it back to camp. Another year a fox tried to get to the live “Turkey Trophies”, causing quite a bit of excitement for both the turkeys and the campers.

John Hardy, one of the trophy winners, drove home with his prize turkey in the back seat of his car. This caused quite a bit of consternation and confusion among his fellow travelers as they stared at his passenger! Luckily there were no wrecks that we know of caused by John’s bird.

Hare Scrambles – Cochran’s (end of Magnolia) El Cajon, August 1963

This was a long rough course with bad hills and rocky roads. Some extra excitement happened when the race course ran into Marine Camp Elliot by error. The Marine MPs ended up shooting over the heads of some of the riders. Wild!!!!!!

Hare Scrambles - San Diego County Desert, November 1963

Anza Borrego Park Rangers arrived in the pits and threatened to arrest Bill Steider and several other club members for racing through a small corner of the park. The “violations” were resolved when the club agreed to take branches and brush the desert floor, wiping out all of the tire tracks to the rangers’ satisfaction.

European Scrambles – Village Park in Encinitas, July 1965

Between the dust, false starts and over 200 riders, this was always remembered as a major headache event. While it gave the members plenty to talk about for months, it wasn’t a fondly remembered event.



Winner gets Trophy at Turkey Run

These events were followed by dozens of desert races put on by the club and sanctioned by the AMA in San Diego District 38 and Los Angeles District 37. As the level of regulation and restriction by both the AMA and the BLM intensified, the club, as noted above, an independent minded group, abandoned Southern California as a home for our races. It was time to move to Baja! Bruce Barlow was one of the main forces for getting the Enduro started down there. In addition, Bill Steider had known Pedro Santana since the early 1950’s and he was very instrumental in assisting us with many of the legal aspects of racing in Baja.

There are too many events from over the years to mention, but here are a few.....like the time the outhouse fell down in the pits; Bruce Barlow setting the trees on fire with one of his super fire lighting tricks: poker in the snow or in Steider’s van after a day of laying out the race. Bruce was the Baja Bug “Wedge” on a night run to Ensenada. There was rain, snow and floods, and even one New Year’s celebration with lobster and steak on the grill, motorcycle movies by the fire, and hot drinks from Pedro. So many fun times at Pedro’s Ranch which he so kindly made us feel was our home.



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The Legendary Tecate Enduros 1973 -- 1998

Those early races and the club members' adventurous explorations of Baja by motorcycle led to the famous (some say infamous) Tecate 500 Enduro. First run in 1973, it was a grueling two-day Enduro starting in Tecate, running 250 miles of dirt trails and roads to San Felipe on the Sea of Cortez. After an overnight stop, the riders returned to Tecate on a different 250 mile route. Not all of the riders returned on the race course – each year many ended up in the back of a truck for the return journey. One year, club president Kenny Hearing was arrested in San Felipe for holding an event without a permit. Needless to say, negotiations for his release were successful and the club returned to San Felipe numerous times.

Over the years the course and the format changed, but the Enduro's reputation never did. The Tecate Enduro was always considered one of the finest, longest and toughest motorcycle events in North America. The winners of the 24 Tecate Enduros reads like a who's who of off-road Enduro racing; Malcolm Smith, Ron Bishop, Randy Hawkins, Kevin Hines, Larry Roeseler, Ty Davis, and Paul Edmondson just to name a few. Every year these and other top factory riders would risk career-ending injury to compete in a non-points, no cash prize event in a foreign country – hopefully for a trophy or even just a finisher pin. These pins became a much coveted symbol of completing the Tecate Enduro.

In a 1989 Dirt Rider Magazine reported on the Tecate Enduro in an article entitled "Enduro Riders Nightmare---Welcome to the Jungle at the "Infamous" MAG 7 lunch stop many riders thought of food, drink, and a quick way back to the pits sounded better than hitting the tight, arm-ripping Manzanita and endless sand washes that are tighter than most broom closets and littered with TV size boulders."

These events epitomize the Los Ancianos. The overall high quality of any Los Ancianos event shows the pride of the club. The difficulty level shows the toughness and riding ability of the member. The uniqueness of each event, along with the ever changing course routes, demonstrates the members' knowledge of Baja. The club members spend an entire year cutting out new trails and laying out a course where every rider gets their money's worth. The countless hours and personal dollars invested in these events by the members illustrate their dedication to "doing it right".



Enduro layout crew in MF Wash



Steiders" Staircase at Enduro

Los Ancianos M.C. Tecate Enduro Overall Winners:

1973	Bill Menchen	Husqvarna
1974	Bob Steffen	Bultaco
1975	Ron Bishop	Rokon
1976	Ron Bishop	Rokon
1977	Malcolm Smith	Husqvarna
1978	Jack Johnson	Husqvarna
1979	Bob Brooks	Suzuki
1980	Robert Popiel	Husqvarna
1981	Robert Popiel	Husqvarna
1982	Chip Howell	Yamaha
1983	Ricky Johnson (Tecate Grand Prix)	Yamaha
1984	Larry Roeseler	Husqvarna
1985	No Enduro	
1986	Dave Bertram	Husqvarna
1987	Randy Hawkins	Husqvarna
1988	Kevin Hines	KTM
1989	Larry Roeseler	Kawasaki
1990	Larry Roeseler	Kawasaki
1991	No enduro	
1992	Larry Roeseler	Kawasaki
1993	Larry Roeseler	Kawasaki
1994	Ty Davis	
1995/96	No enduros	
1997	Kevin Hines	
1998	Ty Davis	



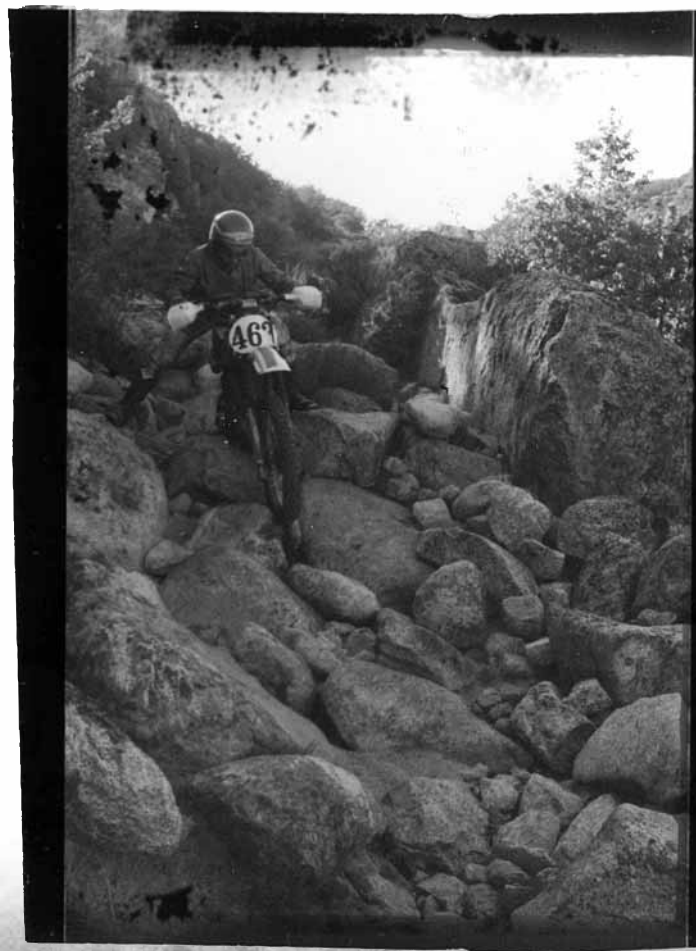
LA Bay in May Ride at Puerticitos Exporation Trip

The 50th Anniversary Tecate Enduro

The club's 50th Anniversary year will see a once in a lifetime opportunity for serious enduro racers participate in the return of the Tecate Enduro. Once again, club members have been hard at work exploring the hills, washes and cattle trails of Baja to lay out 100 miles of challenging single-track trails. We will be giving racers a chance to test their skills and endurance in a one day event on December 4, 2010. This event will honor the many traditions established in the early days of the club but will also change with the times as the scoring will be based on the current National Enduro rules such as those used in the ISDT. This means you do not need time keeping equipment and instead will be scored via Transfer and Special Test sections.



Dick and Bruce at El Crucero 1962 Exporation Trip



The Tecate Hare Scrambles 2000 -- 2009

In the late 1990s, land use issues in Baja made the enduro format increasingly difficult and the club began to evaluate a new direction in promoting race events. While the last enduro courses were approximately 125 miles, we found the need to change formats to a Hare Scrambles, which would allow us to run multiple laps on a 12 – 25 mile course. In 2000, we ran the first of what was to become an annual event in the general area near Hacienda Santa Veronica, just east of Tecate. Through the club's long association with local ranchers, we have been able to work with several of them to gain access to private lands and have continued the reputation of the Los Ancianos by putting on tough, quality races. Once again top riders from the US have joined an increasing number of Mexican riders in fierce competition for trophies and finishers' pins.

2000	Paul Edmondson
2001	Ty Davis
2002	Nick Pearson
2003	Joey Lanza
2004	Joey Lanza
2005	Nathan Kanney
2006	Destry Abbott
2007	Ty Davis
2008	No race
2009	Jamie Lanza



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The leaders all left the check at the same time for the race finish line in La Paz, some 125 miles distant. But, alas, the Triumph's clutch was also going south and seriously limiting its top speed. Hence, with the lead lost at the final check point, John and Dick then finished in second place just a few minutes behind the Roberts/Smith Husqvarna and 3rd overall behind the Meyers Manx. Still an outstanding performance for Dick and John that could not have been achieved without the support of their fellow Ancianos scattered down the peninsula.

As these Baja races grew over time, they added multiple classes for motorcycles, some based on age – they even have a "Class 60" for racers 60 years and older. Club member Dave Olen was a key team member with multiple class wins in both the Baja 500 and 1000. The Baja 1000 was expanded to 2000 miles in the year 2000 and Dave and his team captured first in class. At the 40th Anniversary of the Baja 1000 in 2007, Dave and his team once again won the race for the "old guys" class. This special 40th Anniversary race also brought John Barnes and Dick Hansen out of "retirement" to race once again. They were part of Jim Filanc's all star "Racing for Life Team" that included their main competitors, Malcolm Smith and J.N. Roberts, from that first Mexican 1000, as well as a new Los Ancianos member Kent Richardson and Jerry Jones Jr., the son of deceased club member and fellow desert racer Jerry Jones. Forty years later the Ancianos finished another Baja 1000!

Since that first race Mexican 1000 experience, many of the club members have been sought out to provide their unique knowledge and experience in providing logistics and pit support for factory motorcycle and race car/truck teams for Baja and long distance desert races. Those include, Team Husqvarna, Team Green Kawasaki, Best-in the Desert Racing, McMillen Racing, Herbst Racing, Riviera Racing and others

As a matter of little known history, the now famous off-road race support group "MAG 7" was founded by a couple of club members and their racing friends and family as a "Brotherhood" club to the Los Ancianos to share responsibility for manning and equipping pits for early Baja 1000 races. MAG 7 also gained a reputation in the motorcycle community for sponsoring their awesome lunch and rest stop for the club's Tecate Enduro.

The Los Ancianos and the Baja/Mexican 1000 Off-Road Races
Many Club members were and are still very involved in the famous Mexican/Baja 1000 & 500 races since their inceptions. The inaugural 1967 Mexican 1000 found two Club members, Dick Hansen and John Barnes, co-riding a 650cc Triumph TR-6. John had taken over the Triumph from Dick at El Arco, to ride the second half of the race. They had moved from second place into first place overall by the final checkpoint in Villa Constitution 125 miles north of the finish in La Paz. John arrived at the check point in the lead by about 40 minutes. As reported in a leading racing publication at the time " John Barnes roared up and down the main street looking for checkpoint officials, who were dining (actually breakfast) at a local cantina believing they still had an hour before the first racers would arrive. By the time John located the officials, and they opened the checkpoint and the other leading racers arrived. Barnes was joined by J.N. Roberts, another motorcyclist (JN was teamed with Malcolm Smith), and Vic Wilson and Ted Mangels in a Meyers Manx race buggy."

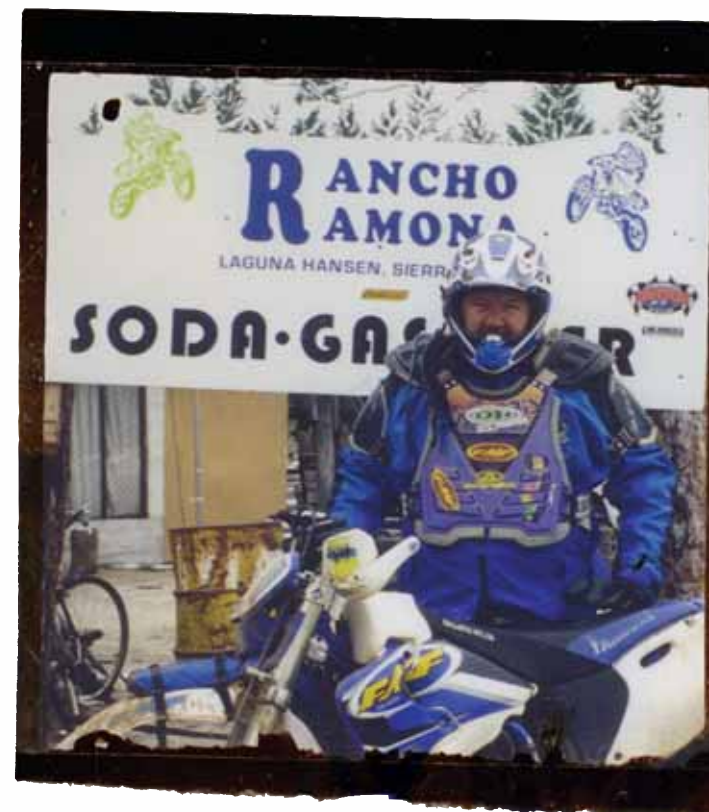


Club President Steider and Ancianos donating to Tecate Charity

After 50 Years – What's Next for the Los Ancianos?

While the Turkey Runs and Hot Mother's Day events have gone away, we are busy creating new traditions, events and stories. Since we are a motorcycle club, not just race promoters, we continue to have numerous events during the year. The one long time event that continues is our annual Memorial Day picnic at Rancho Santana. Pedro Jr. has improved on his father's famed recipe for "barbacoa" or beef cooked in the ground, and we frequently have 80 to 100 people lined up for the "picnic" dinner. The old summer beach party has evolved into an end of summer get together at one of the members homes. As to the motorcycle rides, here are just a few that different club members put on during the year:

- Rancho Ramona / Sawmill ride – a down and back ride to Laguna Hansen with overnight camping
- El Compadre Trail ride – a great ride on trails with a Saturday night campout and party
- Memorial Day Poker run – we ride this to work up an appetite for that delicious barbacoa served later that afternoon
- Night ride – it's not really too hot to ride in the summer, you just need a head light!
- Beach ride – another way to beat the heat. Ensenada to San Quintin and back.



Now these are just the official ones where we actually plan it and invite people to ride, eat, share stories about the ride and drink the infamous Baja Fools Margaritas. Many other weekends you'll just run into small groups at the ranch and head out for a day's ride. You just never know who you might run into or where you might ride. The Ancianos had many firsts in Baja explorations.....In the early 60's they were the first motorcycles into a place that was simply described as a "The Trout Stream". It later became accessible to buggies and 4X4s and the infamous Mike's Sky Ranch was founded. Many of trails and old roads pioneered by the club have become part of Baja race courses and organized Baja trail rides.



Many club members too have been a part of the annual week-long club exploration trips south where they have followed historical trails, pioneered new single-track trails, become acquainted with many ranches and ranchers, and visited and explored the missions and remote trails of Baja. There has been great participation by club members in the Baja races, both as participants and in manning pits.

The Club Founders and Legacy members wish to thank everyone that made this event possible and an especially Safe Ride into the future.

