

May 21, 2017

Dear Oakland Motorcycle Club,

I am writing this letter in an attempt to open a line of communication with your club about your Sheetiron 300 Dualsport motorcycle race from Stonyford to Fort Bragg. I will attempt with every effort to leave this communication professional, but every fiber of me is in a sheer rage right now.

I live in Leesville CA, which is in between Highway 20 and Stonyford. I am going to describe our community to you, and if you already know this, I apologize, but I am trying to give you some background. This is a very remote area, predominantly agriculture based, mainly cattle and hay fields. There are limited resources for roads. They are mainly gravel, very narrow, and have many blind curves. There are many people who use them, motorcyclists, bicyclists, RV's, CDF, horseback riders, hay swathers, cattle trucks, cars with children. There are small communities here of not so many houses, Leesville and Ladoga being among them.

Today I have never witnessed such rude behavior, and utter disregard for safety, traffic laws, and common courtesy. Your bikers were traveling in packs, at breakneck speeds, past my residence, upon the roads and passing vehicles and hay swathers at high rates of speed. . They were doing this on double lines, and weaving in between cars and agriculture equipment. Standing in front of my home, with children and dogs out front, they jet by at 60 mph, and faster on the open stretches. They come within feet of hitting me, and never slow a second. Coming home from a ranch we were working on we had to get off the road countless times to avoid an accident. As we were southbound we passed two swathers northbound, with a pilot car and flags. It was an extremely narrow stretch and we pulled over to allow passage. Your bikers tore through at top speed around the swather and in between us in a three foot gap. They didn't slow a tad. This was not one biker but 20. There was another swather up ahead. They passed on blind curves, cutting off cars, trucks and narrowly missing all these vehicles. They literally ran them off the road, REPEATEDLY. They were not fazed. These speeds continued and this disregard continued the entire day and into the evening.

This is our home, our neighborhood. We live, drive and make a living here. We welcome people coming to visit, and we love to see them having fun. We understand how wonderful it feels to be in the outdoors and feel free. We can not understand though how someone feels it's okay to do this. I would never do this to someone's community. Currently, I am going to do everything in my power to shut this down. I am going to turn this into the CHP, and our local sheriff. I have already called our supervisor. The Governor lives down the road outside of Williams, and they passed his house. I will be having a conversation with him too. I am filing formal complaints with every sector of this event, from Stonyford to US Forest service. The entire community from Hwy 20 through Stonyford is up in arms and very angry. I am at a complete loss to understand how anyone, let alone so many someone's think it is acceptable to treat others communities, neighborhoods, and people in this manner. What could possibly cause such behavior? Reckless abandon, willful disregard, rude, dangerous, arrogant. I am completely disgusted.

Be forewarned, if it is not shut down, or an apology given, and assurances made, it is not going to go so smooth for the riders next year. Not only will I call law enforcement first thing when they show up, I will let them know ahead of time. We feel completely violated, and next year we will be prepared to fight back in every way we can. Mutual respect, speed limits, road courtesy, safety, is all we ask. Nothing more.

Sincerely,

Cristy Edwards
Leesville, CA