

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



"They ask me how I knew, my true love was true, Ohhhhhh....I of course replied, Something here inside, cannot be denied. "

They said, "Someday you'll find, all who love are blind. Ohhhhhh.....when your heart's on fire, you must realize...smoke gets in your eyes....So I smile and say, when a lovely flame dies, smoke gets in your eyes. Smoke gets in your eyes."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2di83WAOhU>

Ahhh, the 1958 Platters version of Smoke Gets in Your Eyes. Like so many versions of this song, we have had so many smoke filled days all over Montana this summer. And like the lyrics, which make little sense, neither does all the smoke that's inundated the area. Unfortunately it does affect our riding. Breathing it at home is one thing, breathing it at 60+ MPH is quite another. Not fun.

The good news...we did have a lot of good riding earlier this summer, especially considering our great weather in April and May.

The bad news: When the heck will this end? I talked to intrepid dual sport rider Doug Byrne of Kalispell today. The roads he had planned for our September dual sport ride are closed because of fire. That's a little more adventure

MOA # 155  
RA # 072  
AMA # 6830

riding than I'm looking for. Although that might not be true for adventure seeker and VP Dave Gordon. Anyway, we'll postpone that one for a better time. Thanks to Doug for his willingness to plan & organize that ride.

August BS (before smoke) actually started off as a pretty good month. The August Big Hole dual

### **NEXT MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 20**

**POLSON**

**KWA TAK NUK RESORT**

**TIME: 1:00 PM**

sport ride, held in conjunction with our August club meeting in Wisdom, brought out lots of riders. Have to say the Big Hole was pretty smoke-free that weekend. The ride on the Gravelly Range Road on Friday was fantastic. The roads were almost too good. The weather offered blue skies and moderate temps, perfect for a day in the saddle. The views along the way were panoramic beyond belief. Easy to understand as we passed several signs indicating we were above 9,000 feet.

Yours truly was the last to arrive on Friday at Twin Bridges. When I pulled into the local gas stop, I could hardly believe the turnout! I was so impressed to find 11 riders, ready and rarin' to go. Our previous high for this dual sport ride has been six. Though it proved a great day and a great ride on Friday, unfortunately the weather didn't hold on Saturday. We met for breakfast in Henry's Lake for a great breakfast at Connie's to talk over the situation. We felt

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there was enough rain to cancel the ride. Except for the temerity and stubbornness of group leader Dave Gordon, no one took the Red Rocks Road to Monida. David was bound and determined not to let the weather get in the way of a good dual sport ride. After a warm, dry, and scrumptious breakfast everyone went their own way on Saturday. Son Mike and I endured a deluge of rain and wind on the way north to Ennis and Twin Bridges that I haven't seen the likes of in a long time. But by Saturday evening the weather had moderated. Dinner time at the Taco Bus in Dillion had us still looking at threatening skies but by bedtime we could see the stars twinkling away. Though not all of the original 11 riders ended up in Dillon, 7 of us did show up Sunday at *The Crossing at Fetty's* in Wisdom along w/ a lot of other club members. I believe the total count at Wisdom was around 20. As usual owner Diane found a place for all of us. And per usual, the food and service were top class; especially considering them having to deal w/ so many old fart motorcyclists. One young couple sitting nearby asked "What group IS this"? He said he was impressed. Not sure what he was impressed with but said he'd check out our website.

Talk about impressed, we should all be impressed and thank David Gordon for putting on a great GS ride. Thanks Big Dave! Looking forward to next year!

Those making the meeting: from Missoula, David Gordon, Kent Aldridge, Pat & Lori Grimes, Chuck & Mike Reaves.

From Helena, Terry Gauthier, Kevin & Annie Huddy, Steve Moore, Mike Cable. From The Bitterroot, Marrea Mathews. From Bozeman/Belgrade, Kelly & Shirley King, Bob Testut, Mike & Joy Kreikemeier & their son and daughter-in-law. From Colorado, Mike & Donna McInerney.

This month the meeting will be Sunday, September 20. Location is Polson and it's at the Kwa Taq Nuk Resort.

Usual time: 1:00 PM. Unfortunately the tour boat, the Shadow, will be retired for the season on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Now that doesn't mean you can't go. Take your significant other up on Saturday and enjoy the boat tour of the south bay on Flathead Lake. Maybe dinner out, a little romance...(this is a PG newsletter). Then you can meet the club for lunch on Sunday (with a smile on your face). I'll bet you get lots of "brownie ride points" for that scenario! No; you don't have to pay me for that bit of advice.

Other things coming up: First Saturday in October, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll have a fall colors ride, probably up Highway 200 along the Blackfoot River. Meet at my home at 241 University Avenue at 9:00 am. The Reaves will host a chili feed at their home after the ride. There might even be some pie?!#@

Thanks to all for the get well card for Rogene Lemke. Saw her yesterday and she is lookin' GOOD! Way to go Rogene!!

Hoping you all enjoy a great September for riding. Look forward to seeing you at Kwa Taq Nuk September 20th. Ride safe.

Happy Trails!!

Chuck

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### LARRY'S CORNER (Safety & Mileage)

Greetings from the new "Montana Summer Normal"....smoke! Everywhere I've been in the

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[www.mtbmwridders.org](http://www.mtbmwridders.org)

## EDITOR'S CORNER

last couple of weeks you might as well have been riding in Kansas for all you could see! The trips included Lewistown, Flathead Lake, Plains and on Friday to the Lochsa....the latter a ride to escape the smoke!!! NOT! Our favorite breakfast/lunch destination is an "Incident Command Post" for one of the fires in the area. Parking lot, camping area full of fire engines, firefighters....and smoke so thick that all the entrees are coming "smoked". Anyway, the last couple of weeks of heat and smoke have certainly put a damper on my 2015 mileage! Hope you're having more success (or maybe are just tougher!?) Anyway, we have about a month and a half left on our "official" riding season, so in spite of the fires that keep burning keep the tires turning! Those of you who subscribe to the BMWMOA monthly magazine will get our final mileage reporting form in the October issue. You can send me a copy of our final form. Those of you who sent me something else (letter, email, napkin) can respond in kind. I'll have another reminder in the October issue. (Ed. Note: See conversation from member Don Deuel to Chuck in this issue.)

Riding in the thick smoke represents a significant visual hazard. It's hard to see potential hazards and certainly it makes you a lot less visible to the folks in the vehicles. Ride with your headlight on high beam, and if you have auxiliary driving lights, now would be a great time to use them! I know this sounds like your mother talking, but it would also be a great time to SLOW DOWN!. As with any situation where you have reduced visibility, slowing down accomplishes three vital things, 1) it gives you slower closing rates and in doing so 2) provides you with more time to react and finally 3) it takes less distance to come to a stop if you need to do so.

*Larry Banister  
Retired MSF Instructor*

^ ^ ^

***We're on the Web:***

"Email Conversations Noted"

The below e-mail was sent out by President Chuck to all the members on his email list and this was a response to that e-mail from Don Deuel.

*"Hello to all. In anticipation of the season slowing down & to alleviate you having to read club officer articles, wondered if any of you out there have some good stories about rides this summer.*

*They could be local rides, could be the MOA rally, could be long distance or out of the country rides. Could be a new ride you purchased or review of some M/cycle gear. It could even be sharing some new great pie places along the way. (We'll store that info in the secret web site place). ☺*

*Anyway, I know several of you got some fun trips in this summer...and since I know most of you don't want to hear about my sister's wedding, let's share some "good stuff" with the membership.*

*Thanks and look forward to hearing from you."*

----- Forwarded message -----

**From: "Don Deuel" Date: Sep 2, 2015 7:01 AM**

**Subject: Re: Any 2015 Summer 'Ride' Stories  
To: "Chuck Reaves"**

**Yes, have some stories and rides for sure but doing the Three Flags Classic with 300 riders from the Mexico border below San Diego and 5 check points and ends in Victoria, B.C., Canada about 2,800 miles in 5 days and then going to Hyder, AK and back home about the 12th of Sept. Also did the following rides: 21 missions in Calif., 48 States in 9 days, best 15 roads in U.S., Four Corners of the U.S., 50 CC which is coast to coast from Jacksonville Beach to San Diego Beach in less than 50 hrs and did it in 42 hrs and four 1,000 milers in 24 hrs and 2 consecutively. Did these all with Greg (Hintz). See you at Oct meeting.**

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## SUMMER RIDING STORY

*One of my favorite things to do at motorcycle rallies is to wander through the camping area checking out all the different bikes that show up. Of course there are the new, modern, high tech machines, but what is most interesting are the classic and vintage bikes that people ride, sometimes from great distances. There was no shortage of these bikes at the Billings rally. Most of the old bikes had been well cared-for, but some looked as though they were lucky if they ever got an oil change. Great to know folks are still out on the road with those bikes.*

*I had to get back to Helena on Saturday so left the rally early that morning and headed toward the Beartooth Pass. The weather was looking good and the ride to Red Lodge was pleasant in the cool morning air. Gassed up with the Harley riders, cleaned the face shield, and headed up the pass. The ride to the top was rather slow as there was a good deal of traffic. At the top, I stopped to take in the view and look at the motorcycles parked there. One of the more interesting bikes was a good condition blue 1977 R75/7 with Krauser hard cases. The rider of this bike looked like he hadn't changed his gear since the 1970s – open-face helmet, goggles, and well-worn leather clothes. Good for him, I thought, that he can have a nice nostalgic day out on his old bike.*

*I was hoping to have a rather fast ride down into Cooke City so after no vehicles had gone in about 10 minutes I decided it was time to go. The first few switchback turns are pretty sharp so I rode easy until the radius of the curves began to increase and then started to ride with more confidence and increased speed. Approaching a sharp right hand turn I was concentrating on braking and setting up for the turn when I was startled to see another bike*

*right on my tail. Must be that S1000RR I saw at the top. Coming out of the turn the rider went by me like I was standing still. What the heck? It was the old guy on the R75. Before I knew it, he was 200 feet ahead of me and increasing the gap. Well, of course the hormones kicked in (as they do sometimes) and I used the 170+ horse power to quickly catch-up.*

*I followed him for the next 20 miles or so I got quite the lesson. This guy would barely touch the brakes as the turns approached, and then would accelerate so fast out of the turns that he'd be 100 feet ahead of me going down the straights. I couldn't believe someone could ride that old suspension and those skinny tires so fast in the corners. And he barely shifted his center of mass to the inside of each turn. He was so sure in his technique that he never had to "hang-off" the side of his bike. He was rock solid through all those turns while I struggled to stay on his line.*

*After about 45 minutes of very spirited cornering he signaled and turn off into a campground. My wave was one of gratitude for the riding lesson as well as goodbye. Later, while enjoying a sandwich in sunny Cooke City it occurred to me that no amount of high tech gadgetry on our modern bikes can substitute for riding experience and knowing exactly how your bike will perform at any given time. The Beartooth Pass is a great highway to ride, especially when you can follow a great rider like that. From now on I am going to look for the old(er) guys to follow.*

**Submitted By Bob Rennick (Helena)**

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## VEEP'S CORNER

For the second time, the Gravelly Range route outlined two years ago by former Vice President, Terry Kay, turned illusive. Two years ago the ride was completely stormed out. This year it started with a beautiful Montana day that took us over the highest part of the Route

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and into West Yellowstone for the night. Just as we were finishing handmade pizza and a plethora of 16oz beers the rain started. And it rained and rained all night. Saturday morning, we gathered for a



consensus meeting because it was clear the rest of the planned route would be impassible mud. The 10 bikes and 11 riders decided to spit into separate groups and do their own rides (on asphalt) to either the Dillon KOA that night or to arrive at the meeting in Wisdom on Sunday. President Chuck Reaves and son,



Mike, joined me that night in Dillon where we enjoyed a great Mexican dinner at the Blue Bus and some beers back at the KOA.

Sunday we journeyed to the Elkhorn Hot Springs and Pioneer Scenic Route and on to

Wisdom for the meeting where nearly all of the original riders gathered to finish the weekend. Feedback revealed that the rain was really not a problem. It just changed the route and not the "ride."

**David Gordon**


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**[www.mtbmwrider.org](http://www.mtbmwrider.org)**

***We're on Facebook Too:***  
**Montana BMW Riders**

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## 2015 MT BMW Riders Calendar

January 18th	Seeley Lake - Double Arrow Lodge
February 15th	Avon - Avon Cafe
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fairmont-Fairmont Hot Springs
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lincoln - Lambkins
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Philipsburg - Sunshine Station
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Big Fork - Echo Lake Cafe
July 23-26	MOA Rally in Billings (Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Breakfast ride to Ft. Rockvale Café from the rally)
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wisdom - The Crossings Restaurant at Fetty's
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Polson - Kwa Taq Nuk Lunch meeting followed by optional boat tour of Flathead Lake
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ovando - Trixies
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Drummond - Wagon Wheel
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party at Big Sky Motorsports

## BIG SKY MOTORSPORTS

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## Wisdom Pictures and Random Shots of The Dual Sport Ride



*Wisdom*



*Wisdom # 2*



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Montana BMW Riders Newsletter  
Published Monthly

Club Dues: \$15 per calendar year - Membership includes monthly electronic newsletter (or \$20 per year for snail mailed newsletter).

Monthly Meeting: Third Sunday of each month, 1 PM, unless specified otherwise. Location Announced in Newsletter.

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Items for the newsletter are welcome and may be sent to: Editor, P.O. Box 1353, Victor, MT 59575. Emailed text is preferred. Photos as attachments.

Signed articles do not necessarily reflect the consensus opinion of the Montana BMW Riders.

## Editor's Other Notes:

I couldn't make the Dual Sport Ride or the Wisdom ride (my very favorite ride this time of year) because my wife and I were on a cruise in the Baltic Sea, including St. Petersburg, Russia...a place that has been on her bucket list for



years. We had a great time and had great weather. However, I about fell over when I spotted the Event Tent in downtown St. Petersburg and heard the familiar "brammm,brammm" of the Harley crowd. Also ran into leather clad folks in Tallinn, Estonia and Stockholm, Sweden. Felt like home.



END