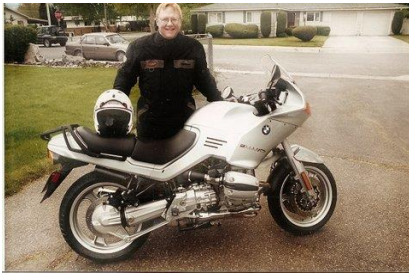


MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



With snow & ice on the ground and everyone gearing up for Super Bowl 50, the last thing on your mind is probably some motorcycle newsletter...or not. Well, mostly I'll just highlight the upcoming club events, and let you be on your way.

While I have to admit to being Super Bowl aware, I have also been thinking about motorcycling, or at least some few things needed for the bike for next year as well as where I might want to go...day trips not done in a while or extended trips I might want to do like Alaska or? The world is the limit. Anyway that takes lots of thinking and research. I'm sure most of you are doing the same.

Club-wise, other than putting the schedule together for the monthly rides in 2016 (see further on in this newsletter) we do have something fun to add to your mileage other than monthly meeting rides. This will be called the Café to Café Challenge and this contest hopefully will make 2016 a higher mileage year for you as well as add more fun to your riding, (not to mention more to your waistline). ☺

This contest will work like this. Based on the recommendations of club members, 20 cafes across Montana will be chosen. Riding to some or all of the cafes chosen is the goal.

Big Sky Motorsports will be getting into the mix offering some special incentives to participate in this Café to Café Challenge. The cafes picked and contest rules will be named in the March newsletter.

Larry Banister, mileage coordinator, I expect, will have a lot more entrants this year. The mileage contest will be ongoing and separate

BMW Motorcycle Club
Montana BMW Riders



CLUB CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS

BMWMOA #155

BMW RA #072

AMA #6830

contest all on its own. So we'll have winners for three contests. So you should have lots of reasons for riding this summer, which I'm sure puts a smile on everyone's face! Larry will announce the mileage contest dates and any rule changes in the next newsletter.

We'll be having two upcoming **Tech Sessions** in February; specifically, **Saturday February 13th**, Andy Main will do a tech session presentation. On **February 27th**, Gail at Big Sky Motorsports will give a tech session on helmet fitting and clothing. Both of these will be at Big Sky BMW **on Saturday morning at 10:00 am.**

NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 21

AVON

AVON CAFE

Hope all is well and the riding withdrawals are not getting the best of you. It's a great time to pick up a Clem Salvatore or Peter Egan book, figure out those farkles you "need" for the upcoming year and get done whatever needs done mechanically to be ready for that first nice riding day in February? March? April? No

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matter...at least get the trickle charger going for now and be ready!

Oh, and welcome aboard (again) to Ed Field, who's graciously accepted the position of Vice President.

Happy Trails!!

Chuck

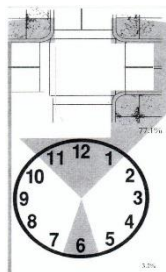


SAFETY CORNER

Well, we've had a look at what spring might look like! The last week has been one of warmer temps, melting snow and ice and enough sunshine to get me thinking about riding. The probable truth is, however, that we've got at least another 60 days of crummy weather before we can get a real ride in. So, in the meantime, I want to share a couple of thoughts with you which may give you some something to think about as the new riding season approaches (and perhaps direction for the "investing" of your dollars in new farkles and/or riding gear!).

You will find a clock face diagram to the right. Superimposed on that clock face are a couple of grey pie slices, the upper one between the 11 and 1 o'clock numerals and a second and much smaller slice at the 6 o'clock position. This clock face and the superimposed slices tell us a couple of vital things.... most accidents involving motorcycles and other vehicles (77.1% in fact!) occur at intersections and encroach upon our space between the 11 o'clock and 1 o'clock direction. 6% of motorcycle accidents involve things that encroach upon our space at the 6 o'clock position.

Food for thought:



1. When you're searching for possible hazards, make sure you consistently and frequently scan all around you but particularly at intersections!
2. Remember, most vehicle drivers claim "I never saw 'em" after they hit you. So you want to concentrate on "offensive weapons" which will make you more visible in the 11-1 o'clock pie slice. Like, hi-viz clothing, helmet, extra lighting on the front of your motorcycles, a "real" horn, headlight modulators, etc. As to the rear 6 o'clock position, make sure your scan your mirrors before you stop at an intersection and having some sort of auxiliary, pulsing brake light system doesn't hurt either. You also want to think about an escape route just in case the guy behind you does not look like he's going to stop.
3. As to riding skills, be sure to down shift to the appropriate gear when approaching an intersection so that you have the option to speed up if necessary. Also, be sure that you're covering your brakes so if you need a sudden stop you won't expend valuable time trying to reach for the brake lever/pedal. As you sit at an intersection, it is a good idea to leave your bike in 1st gear so that if the guy behind you appears and looks like he isn't going to stop, you can immediately accelerate into your planned path of escape without having to shift into gear. Watch for cars turning left or pulling out from your right without stopping. Position yourself in such a manner as to maximize the space and time for evasive maneuvers.

So, between now and the start of riding season, get your favorite riding skills book and review the process and importance of proper vision, scanning and staying alert; review the sections on emergency braking; and review the options for creating time and space as it relates to intersections. Also, as you're thinking about that new set of riding gear and "farkles" to add to your bike, consider the clock face diagram and invest accordingly.

See you on the road soon (I hope)

Larry Banister

Safety Guru - Montana BMW Riders

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

ANNIE'S CORNER

Hello and Welcome to February!

Like the groundhog, I have noticed my shadow as the days ARE getting longer and we have had more sun in Helena. Not only has the sight of the sun warmed my heart, but also the fact that 44 of our members have submitted their dues and they are entered in the early bird drawing!

Membership dues help pay for the website (Thank Mike Wright for his wizardry!) and that has brought in several new members over the last few months from as far away as Nevada, Indiana, and Florida. Start looking for new faces, bikes, and maybe even riding partners as they transition to Montana this Spring.

Your dues also help pay the State of Montana filing fee on the required paperwork to maintain our non-profit status, as well as the Montana BMW Riders memberships in the BMWMOA as charter club member #155, the RA, and the AMA. All three memberships keep us current on new bikes and gear, safety issues, rally, and the BMW mileage contest, and rides to add to our bucket lists.

The vitality of our club depends on our members and on the member volunteers who are willing to give their time to manage websites, file taxes, renew charters, set up newsletters, print and email those newsletters, copying and mailing those same newsletters, or make multiple phone calls organizing advertising, making reservations for monthly meetings, and getting raffle gifts. Many, Many Thanks go out to Chuck, Dave, Mike, and Larry for all that they do behind the scenes to keep this club rolling along—they somehow make it look effortless and like the groundhog do it year after year!

Please show your thanks by either paying your dues at the next meeting in Avon or by mailing them to me at:

**6750 Silver Fox Court
Helena, MT 59602**

Thank you,
Annie Hudby



PLANNING A BIG ROAD TRIP?

by Dave McCormack

Like many of our members, I've been riding for a lot of years and have learned some things the hard way. One of the more difficult things to learn is how to plan a successful long motorcycle trip.

Now that we've had about all the winter we want, our natural motorcycle thoughts are turning to rides and in some cases, long rides. There are a few tips here as a result of spending some time with a loaned book from a close friend... "Leanings3" by Peter Egan.

Peter Egan of Cycle World magazine fame has published a number of books with his thoughtful and sometimes humorous "leanings" and has compiled them in a fun compendium of articles and observations. They are not that long, having to fit generally on one page in a magazine, so you can rifle through his book and find articles that appeal to you rather than having to read all the way to the end of the book to find out whether the good guy survives or not.

His article on 'planning a big road trip' is one that caught my attention. I will quote him where he's much better than I and paraphrase his work where I think he would have expanded it had he had time or space. So, I begin...

The most important point is "**Find a Date and Protect It**". Here we all would agree that if you don't get it on the family calendar and protect the date(s), something or someone will create some pressure to change it or drop it. Doesn't matter that you want to ride alone or with someone. You'll be pummeled with guilt trips, moral obligations and other socially important activities. Adopt this mantra... "A year from now, you won't remember why you stayed home, but you will never forget a motorcycle trip." And repeat it often.

If you're like me, you love paper maps when thinking about a trip. The winter months are when I'll drag out the AAA Atlas and begin looking at adjoining states and national parks I haven't seen. Paper maps are fun when you're equipped with a highlighter. You can draw routes

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and then go back to Google Maps and figure mileage per day or whether this or that road appears to be a low or high speed road. Maps have colors and the next tip is **Skip all Yellow or Orange Zones**. Paper maps color the really big cities with either yellow or orange on most maps. Those are the big metropolitan areas that are known for traffic, crime, and people talking on cell phones. There is nothing there for you. Egan calls them "Ruined Zones".

Choose the smallest Possible Roads. Unless you're trying to rack up miles for the Mileage Contest, spending any time on a freeway is so mind numbing you might as well have stayed home and watched Viagra commercials. The big dark red lines on the map are where you'll encounter motorhomes and semi-truck traffic. Find roads that are slow and scenic, even if they add miles to your trip.

Use the "**Never A Dull Moment**" Principle. I quote Egan here..." There's nothing worse on a motorcycle trip than looking at your watch and saying "Gee, if I can hold on to these handlebars for just three more hours, I'll be in Toledo". If you have to go through a boring geography or a big city, take the route that puts you next to the river or out in the country where you have to upshift and downshift and adjust speeds because of the meandering roads. It'll give you something to do rather than thinking about how much more daylight there is before you can get off the bike.

Stop for The Night at Towns in Bold Type. These towns on a map 'usually have fuel, a couple of real restaurants, a small choice of motels and at least one bar featuring the local tap beer you so richly deserve'. If the typeface on the map is small, you'll be lucky to find a meal out of a vending machine and or be sleeping in a ditch. Also, stop earlier than you have to and get to know these little towns. Only the really nice people have stayed to keep the town running. Watch reruns of PBS "Backroads of Montana" for planning purposes.

Stay Flexible. If you happen into a town where a local says, "Hey, you guys ought to stick around for Pig Roast and the Miss Cornfield beauty contest...", don't tell him you have reservations at the Hilton in Kamloops, BC. I took a steamboat trip last fall up the Columbia river with excursions in the river towns. That's when I realized how much I missed on my last motorcycle trip about the little towns so proud of their connection to Lewis and Clark. I had reservations in Baker City, OR that night and couldn't dawdle, and no time to get off and explore. I'm going back this summer. Some of the best recalled trips were the ones where our planning fell apart because of unforeseen events.

The loop you're planning shouldn't be so big and rigid that you can't follow the guidelines above. So, **Don't Make the Loop Too Big**. I had a trip with a friend who wanted to see Crater Lake in Oregon. I'd never seen it either so it was a planned stop. However, we were slowed by road

construction and got to the lake just as the sun was setting. Our motel stop was further on and as a result, we missed seeing the lake and couldn't backtrack the next day because of reservations ahead the next night. The loop and the reservations were just too big and rigid.

Lastly, **Don't Blow Off the Last Day**. A friend and I got up the morning in Great Falls and realized it was the last day of our trip. We could be home before noon. Nope! We decided to take frontage roads as far as we could, then take Wolf Creek up to Highway 200 and then down Helmville road and back to Frontage roads past Deer Lodge and then into Anaconda. Then that awful road between Anaconda and Wisdom and finally up to Lost trail and home by early evening. And here I quote Egan..." Relax and ...stop at a bar 20 miles from home, eat peanuts and SlimJims, talk over the trip, and unwind for an hour or two. And if you haven't punished yourself too badly, you might even talk over a future trip."

As Chuck likes to say, "Happy Trails".

Family Dental Group Rowan P. McQuarrie, DDS, FAGD	4 Corners Rider Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry
	
MontanaSmiles.com Appointments Available Evenings & Saturdays!	We are here when you need us. Southgate Mall in Missoula Next to Dillard's 406-541-2886

We're on the Web:
www.mtBMWriders.org

We're on Facebook Too:
Montana BMW Riders

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

2016 Ride Schedule

- January 16 Seeley Lake...Double Arrow
Resort Lodge... a Saturday
- February 21 Avon... Avon Cafe.
- March 20 Whitehall... Two Bit Saloon
- April 17 Lincoln... Lambkins
- May 15 Philipsburg... Sunshine Station
- May 20-22 Tech Day @ the Huddy's in
Helena... a Saturday & Sunday
- June 18 Big Fork... Echo Lake Café, ... a
Saturday
- July 17 Bozeman... Kountry Korner Cafe, a
Saturday
- August 14 Wisdom...The Crossings
Restaurant @ Fetty's
- September 17 Fort Benton... The Club House...a
Saturday
- October 16 Ovando...Trixie's
- November 20 Drummond...Wagon Wheel
- December 3 Christmas Party @ Big Sky Motor
Sports

Monthly rides normally will occur on Sunday unless otherwise stated. Our standard meeting time is 1 p.m. to allow restaurants to get past their busy time for us. You'll note this year that several of our rides are going to be on Saturday.

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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Email: reavesmt@msn.com

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Email: huddya@hotmail.com

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Mileage Contest Coordinator: Larry Bannister
Email: beemermt@msn.com

Facebook Master: Terry Kay
Email: tmky66@yahoo.com

Editor: Dave McCormack
Email: dhmcc@aol.com

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.

On the next page are two ads from Big Sky Motorsports. We inadvertently failed to get the ad for January in last month's issue so we thought it only right to double up in honor of our close relationship with the Big Sky folks.

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER



BIG SKY
MOTORSPORTS (406) 728.5341 THE BEST SELECTION OF MOTORCYCLES AND ACCESSORIES IN MONTANA

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT
Big Sky Motorsports!
COME IN AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW
YEARS SPECIALS!

www.bigskymotorsports.com



BMW Kawasaki Honda Yamaha

The January edition above and the February ad below. Please note the "Promo Code" below...



BIG SKY
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Be Ready for Spring! Come in and have our experts service your bike!



Mention Promo Code: **"Buy Local"** and receive 15% off all BMW OEM parts ordered in February!!



Kawasaki
Let the good times roll.



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MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

PICTURES FROM SEELEY LAKE MEETING



Out on dry roads to Seeley Lake.



Chuck with his 'gi-normous' bag of giveaways.



Dave, Annie, & Kevin...brave souls.



The Huddy's, Brian & Kim Campbell, Dave & Chuck plus Chris Keyes and his son (they haven't arrived yet).

Our paid up members... thanks folks:

Allred, Wade
Armstrong, Gary
Bannister, Larry
Beyrau, John
Conrad, Ken
Dahl, Russ
Davis, Don
Forseth, E.B. Ave
Gibson, Bob
Graham, Gary
Graham, Carol
Grimes, Patrick
Huddy, Kevin
Huddy, Annie
Kay, Terry
Keyes, Chris
King, Kelly
King, Shirley
Lang, Marg

Lemke, Kim
Mathews, Marrea
McCormack, Dave
Moore, Steve
Nord, Penny
Phillips, Gordon
Pohland, Terry
Rennick, Bob
Scibek, John
Sollier, William
Testut, Bob
Torma, John
Webster, John
Wright, Mike
Pauley, Bob
Betz, George
Campbell, Brian
Rossell, Charles
Meredith, Mike
Reaves, Chuck
Iverson, Jim

Kenneally, Kevin
Logan, Terry
Springer, Lynn
Were, Jo Ann

Way to go, Folks!!