

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

BMW Motorcycle Club
Montana BMW Riders



CLUB CHARTER
MEMBERSHIPS :

BMWMOA #155

BMW RA #072

AMA #6830

NEXT MEETING

DRUMMOND

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

1:00 PM

THE WAGON WHEEL

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The fall, my favorite time of year! Football, cold crisp temps to get the hunter in you going after stepping out of the truck with that rifle or scatter gun in your hands, the earthy smell of the changing season, leaves falling, forest fire smoke gone, October Fest celebrations, and maybe even some holiday bazaar shopping.

Then there's the alt-fall, questionable activities one must do...raking those fallen leaves...erratic weather with cold and windy conditions causing you to get out the long-johns, winterization projects, and bah humbug... holiday shopping. I guess in the big picture those are enough activities to keep a non-rider busy... enough so as to take your mind off the fact that your favorite ride is now sitting in the garage with a cover on it.

After this past summer, one of the things I think many of us will be doing over the next few months of 'light riding', is looking back at the 2017 season, coming to grips with what a short season 2017 became, because of forest fires, and planning accordingly, to avoid that same scenario for next year.

Anticipating forest fires and resulting smoky skies for next riding season is becoming normal consideration for summer motorcycle rides and trips. So judicious planning this winter, for next year's riding trips, only makes sense. That can be fun. Even better if you can enjoy that planning with another club member for anticipatory rides

for next year. Getting together over a hot cup of 'Joe', a weekend breakfast, or an evening beer is a good excuse to open a few maps and start planning riding season 2018.

I feel one of the biggest advantages of this club is to put people together that are like minded. Whether it's at our monthly meetings or our Saturday breakfasts, it gives everyone a chance to get to know each other, find other riding partners and plan/execute memorable trips. This club is not a club for putting rides together that involve lots of group riding. As a group, that is not in our DNA. We love to ride 'there' separately or in small groups. Our MO is "Riding our own ride", meeting for camaraderie and to talk about anything that has to do with motorcycling; new purchases, new farkles, how to solve that irritable Airhead/Oilhead/Hexhead/Camhead/Waterhead problem, as well as the most obvious...where are the best roads to great pie and coffee! So, if you don't have a spouse that rides, the club offers the camaraderie and venues for finding a riding partner.

We still have a few get-togethers before year-end. This Saturday is our 1st Saturday of the Month Breakfast Meeting. It'll take place at **River City Grill** in Bonner at 9:00 am in their back seating area. Then, our last monthly club meeting of the year will be November 19th at the **Wagon Wheel** in Drummond. Same time, 1:00 PM. Crossing fingers that it'll warm up to at least 35 by departure time. Then, on December 2nd, we'll have our annual Christmas party at Big Sky BMW Motorsports on South Avenue in Missoula. Time 5:00-8:30 PM. I hope you will bring a friend and give them the chance to meet new folks to see what a great club we have. And give them a chance to find some riders to pair up with, for future rides down the road.

We had a great turnout at our meeting at Trixi's in October. 19 members participate From Missoula: Liz Banister & Larry Banister on his Triumph XR800; Dick French and guest Sandy Knudsen in a Honda Ridgeline; John Webster - K1200LT; Greg Hintz - Honda Goldwing; Don Deuel -

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Honda Goldwing; Chris Froines on his new Honda Africa Twin; John Debari on his Africa Twin (Hey, is this a conspiracy?); Chris Keyes - R1200GSA; Chuck Reaves - R1100RS; Kim Lemke - K100RS; John Scibek - Ducati Multi Strata. From Townsend: Lance Lerum - R1150R. From Helena: Kevin Huddy - Yamaha FJR; Bill Erhardt - F650GS; Bob Rennick riding a beautiful classic R1100S. And, two riders from Bozeman who showed up after seeing our club's meeting posted on our web site. Good to know there are others out there who don't have a mastery of the GPS... they took a wrong turn and arrived at the Saloon about the time we were leaving. Good guys and hopefully future members. We should have a GPS class this winter. Any experts out there willing to volunteer?

Look forward to seeing you all at one or all of the above. If you have an MOA 'ending mileage form' that needs signing, bring it Saturday. Till then, stay warm and Happy Trails!!

Chuck

* * *



EDITOR'S CORNER

So, the house is up for sale and while we're on a cruise, somewhere between Dublin, Ireland and Edinburgh, Scotland, we get an offer. It's a good offer so we want to respond right away. Never did we imagine it would be such a hassle. Ships don't have fax machines. They only have scanners in the purser's office and the IT manager has very difficult hours and WIFI only really works when you're in port. Nevertheless, we managed to find ways to sign and return documents to accept the offer and the addendums that the buyers wanted included.

Upon our return, we went through an inspection and a number of other qualifiers and began the immediate process of trying to figure out how we were going to get out by the specified date and still maintain our sanity.

No problem. The buyers backed out claiming they didn't like the smoke.

What's this got to do with riding motorcycles, you ask? Not much except that had we really been looking ahead, scanning the horizon, we would have sensed that folks from other states don't understand those of us who choose to live here. We know there are 5 seasons here...Spring, Summer, Smoke, Fall, and Winter. In motorcycling, you need to be scanning way ahead so that you don't short sight and stumble on the stuff right in front of you. I know this article was a stretch, but there's always room for articles from members too, even if they don't exactly express a "motorcycle" theme.

So, fire up those recently dried logs, grab a pad and pencil and take advantage of the winter to jot some thoughts down that the membership might enjoy reading. Ya never can tell, you might get published here and then be motivated to write the great American novel.

Dave

P.S. In the picture accompanying this article, I'm the one on the left.

* * *

MILEAGE CONTEST



To those of you who have submitted your 2017 mileage contest final numbers a great big thanks! For those of you who haven't you have until the 8th of November to get them in to be a part of those considered for the outrageous awards at our annual Christmas Party. **Here are the names of those who submitted beginning mileage who HAVE NOT SUBMITTED your final mileage: Gary Armstrong, Denise Barrett, Gary and Carol Graham, Sarg Hoem, Bob Pauley, John Torma and Might Wright.**

From the results I've received thus far, everyone's mileage is down from previous years (with a couple of exceptions) so this would be a great year to turn yours in! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party when we'll announce the winners and the prizes.

Thanks for participating....

Larry Banister

Mileage Coordinator-Montana BMW Riders

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SAFETY CORNER



You can consider this the “Readers Digest” version of your safety column this month. In struggling to come up with some “new material” that may be of interest, rather than some of the topics we’ve covered in the past, I’ve excerpted ideas taken from a couple of articles on the general subject of “motorcycle safety”.

The first in an article by Lee Parks in the most recent issue of Motorcycle Consumer news where he states: “Motorcycle safety should more accurately be called motorcycle danger, as it is impossible to make motorcycles “safe” with today’s technology.” He further states that “Humans detect light, though we may notice colors later. It is not likely that drivers would notice the colors a motorcyclist is wearing before seeing the motorcyclist’s headlight. Color should be de-emphasized compared to properly functioning lights. Hi-Viz clothing does not have as strong an effect on detecting the presence of a motorcycle as we have been led to believe and it creates a false sense of security.” From an article in the AMA Journal summarizing a new motorcycle crash study, Jim Witters states the following: “For motorcyclists, nearly any intersection can be dangerous. The Motorcycle Crash Causation Study (March 2017) found that 2/3’s of all crashes occurred at an intersection, including 50% of the fatal crashes. Intersections create situations in which drivers and riders have to check traffic in several directions, as well as track traffic signals, pedestrians and bicycles”.

So our lesson: PAY ATTENTION!! Your lighting is an area that you should consider, maybe adding additional full-time front running lights or a headlight modulator instead of the latest carbon fiber farkle and don’t be day dreaming while riding in town (also not a good idea to make that “quick trip” for gas or groceries or hardware items in less than your full gear!). That being said, ride aware!

Larry Banister

Safety Mom-Montana BMW Riders

SECRETARY/TREASURER’S CORNER

Big Sky Ramblings



The curtains are drawing on another riding season, and the signs are all around us. Motorcycles across Montana retreat like spurned lovers to the dark and cramped corners of undersized garages. Friendships are tested as arguments reignite over the relative merits of Star Tron, Stabil, and Sea Foam. Grimy riding gear perks up for the first time after thousands of miles at the possibility of seeing the inside of a washing machine. And somewhere in Montana, a club secretary-treasurer fills the shortening days and a growing dread by reviewing the Montana BMW Riders membership records for 2017.

We finished the 3rd quarter of the year with 75 active (dues-paying) members hailing far and wide from Montana towns and cities of all sizes. From Arlee, Belgrade, and Belt to Townsend, Victor, and Whitefish. And don’t forget about our out-of-state members from Calgary, Alberta; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Northglenn, Colorado. In addition to our little club, they hold memberships with national motorcycling organizations, including BMW Motorcycle Owners of America, BMW Riders Association, and American Motorcyclist Association.

The club’s diverse motorrad fleet comprises BMW’s of many styles and vintages. Boxer twins, of course – of the airhead, oil-head, hexhead, camhead, and wethead generations. But also F-bikes, K-bikes, and S-bikes. Singles, twins, fours, and sixes. Shaft drive, chain drive, and even belt drive. Dual-sport, roadster, sport bike, sport-tourer, tourer, and luxury tourer. If BMW makes it, you can likely find that someone in this club is riding it or has ridden it.

But we don’t just ride BMW’s. At any given meeting you can find yourself rolling up alongside a bike from almost any major manufacturer, including Can-Am, Ducati, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, Triumph, Yamaha, Ural, and even Vespa. The most recent meeting in Ovando was a good illustration of that fact; the Trixie’s parking lot sported two Honda Africa Twins, two Honda Goldwings, a Triumph Tiger, and a Yamaha FJR. Clearly, our BMW club is not one for the stridently monogamous.

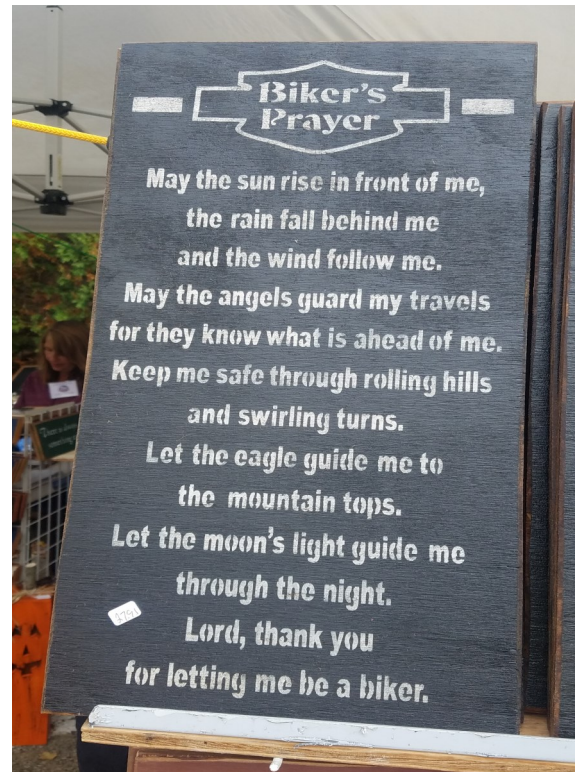
Who wouldn’t want to keep their active membership with such a splendid organization? For 2018, it’s the same great value it has been for many years: just \$15 for 12 months of news, activities & events, prizes, parties, and comradeship! You can join your 24 fellow members that have already paid their 2018 dues. Take a moment and send your check to me at: 714 Continental Way, Missoula, MT 59803. And if your member details have

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changed (bike acquired/sold; new phone number or email address; membership in BMWMOA/BMWRA/AMA; etc.), send me a note or update them at our website: https://mtbmriders.org/New_Members.html.

Chris Keyes

Secretary-Treasurer
Montana BMW Riders
BMWMOA #174257
'13 R1200GSA; '99 F650; '97 R1100RTP



Sign found along a road in Pennsylvania by Member Terry Pohland.

* * *

I recently registered and licensed a 2017 Kawasaki Versys-X 300 and had a bit of a surprise from previous registrations of similar motorcycles. The registration clerk at the Missoula County Courthouse asked if the motorcycle would be used "off-road"? I informed her it would not, except on Forest Services roads. That, I discovered qualifies as "off-road" and requires a special permit in addition to the usual 'highway/street' registration and license plate.

I have registered two adventure bikes and one dual sport previously, all in Missoula county without being asked about the intended use. I didn't happen to volunteer that information. Perhaps other members have the "off-road" permit and I am the only one with non-compliant adventure motorcycles (an F800 GS and a Kawasaki KLX 250) for those Winnebago Class A roads.

In any event, I am \$61.25 lighter, and apparently partially compliant.

Dick French

#206480

Ed. Note: *Because motorcycle licenses are paid only once at time of registration in Montana, you'll not be reminded every year to consider the additional fees associated with an Off Highway permit for travel on Forest Service roads. Best ask for it when registering a bike or an ATV. Can find no information on the fine for not having the required permit. So, beware.*



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The Montana BMW Riders NEWSLETTER is Published Monthly.

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

Monthly Meetings: Third Sunday of each month, 1 PM, unless specified otherwise. Location announced in Newsletter and on Web Page.

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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 of the clubs or its officers.

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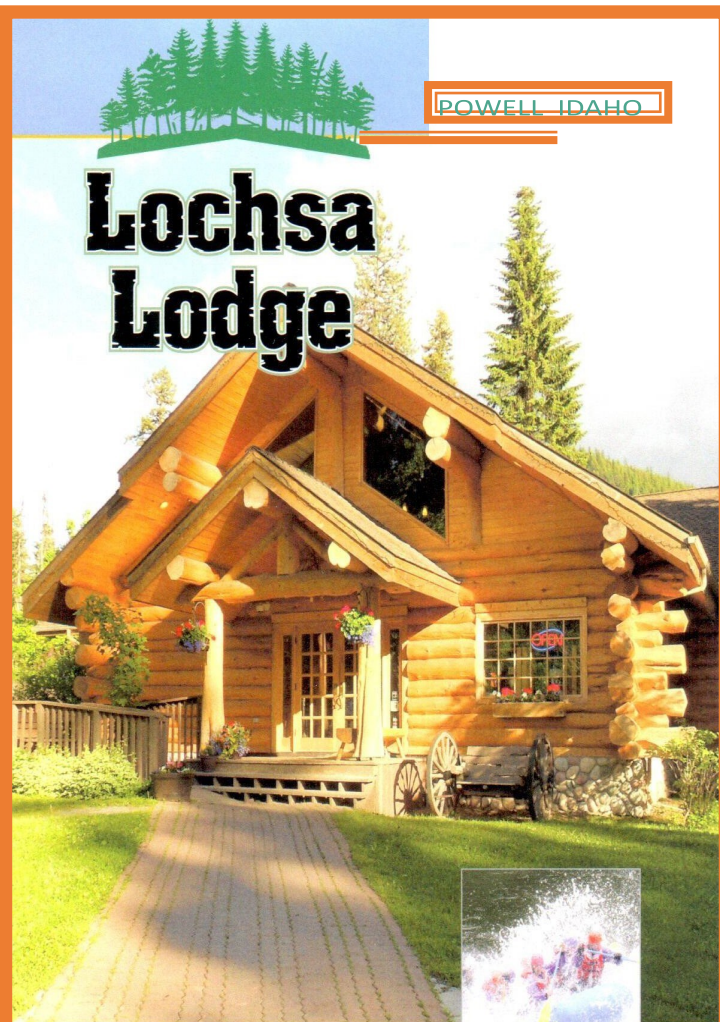
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2017 BMW Club Ride Schedule

Month	Date	City	Place	Sat/Sun
✓ January	21	Seeley Lake	Double Arrow Lodge	Saturday
✓ February	19	Avon	Avon Café	Sunday
✓ March	19	Butte	The Hanging Five	Sunday
✓ April	23	Lincoln	Lambkins	Sunday
✓ May	19/21	Helena	Huddy's Tech days	F,S,S
✓ May	21	Philipsburg	Sunshine Station	Sunday
✓ June	17	Big Fork	Echo Lake Café	Saturday
✓ July	13-16	Salt Lake	Utah State Fairpark	Fri/Sat/Sun
✓ August	20	Wisdom	The Crossings at Fetty's	Sunday
✓ September	16	Choteau	Log Cabin	Saturday
✓ October	15	Ovando	Trixi's Antler Saloon	Sunday
November	19	Drummond	Wagon Wheel Cafe	Sunday
December	2	Missoula	Big Sky Motorsports	Saturday



We have some favorite and traditional meeting places, like Lambkins in Lincoln, the Sunshine Station in Philipsburg, the Echo Lake Cafe in Big fork, and the Crossings Restaurant in Wisdom. But we always are open to suggestions for the following year's meetings. So pick a place, tell us about it and we'll check it out. It has to be able to accommodate upwards of 25 people all in one space, preferably a separate room from the main restaurant, have enough staff at 1:00 p.m. and beyond to serve all those riders and be open both Saturday and Sunday. Send your suggestions to Chuck Reaves, Chris Keyes or Dave McCormack. We're meeting now to determine next year's rides.



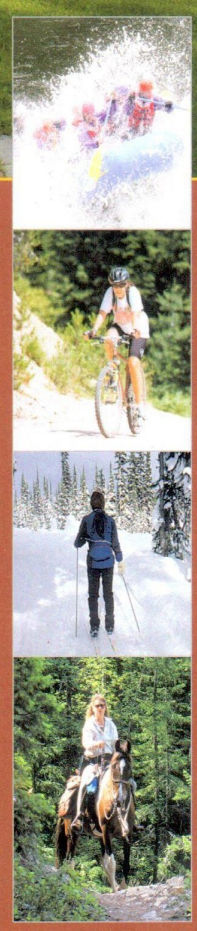
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Quality products from BMW, KTM and Kawasaki and great service set Big Sky Motorsports apart. Our service department specializes in all types of motorcycle, ATV and snowmobile maintenance and aftermarket parts and accessory installation.

Wander on down to **2315 South Avenue West** in **Missoula** or call **(406) 728-5341** to speak to one of the highly trained staff.

When you go, tell them you saw their ad in the MT BMW Riders **NOVEMBER** newsletter.

*November 1st and going to January 31st...Big Sky Motor Sports will be giving a discount of **20%** off labor in the service department.*

*Whenever you are shopping at Big Sky Motor Sports, always remember to ask for **10%** off as a member.*

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BMW GRAND SHOWING

BY Dick French

About ten Club members and for the “Grand Showing” of the BMW K 1600 touring bike on BMW’s first entry into the 300 venture model to follow.



others visited Big Sky Motor Sports 2017 BMW 310R street bike and October 20, 2017. The 310R is cc street bike market, with an ad-

Chris Keyes, Kim Lemke, Kie Philips (unknown guest), Chuck Reaves, Larry Banister, Chris Froines and Don Deuel learning about the features of the K 1600 as you can see in the following photos. Dave McCormack and Dick French stayed out of camera range. It did not appear that anyone rode home on a new bike – maybe it was because of the weather!

