

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I'm gonna embarrass myself and admit to needing a new gauge for help with my riding this time of year. Over the years I've added lots of 'farkels' but now I find I need something unique. A couple of weeks ago while out doing some dirt with website manager Mike Wright and a friend from Spokane, I discovered the need for this new add-on, a Snow Meter. An altimeter may have helped but just wouldn't have been specific enough. I think this snow meter works something like this: it flashes a warning and says **HEY STUPID, TIME TO TURN AROUND!** (Yep, all in caps.)

The three of us had taken the 9 Mile Prairie Rd. winding along the Blackfoot River, then traveled the Sunset Hill Rd that runs behind *Paws Up Ranch* & along the Clearwater River to lunch in Ovando at the *Stray Bullet*. Always a good place for lunch & a rest stop, & yep, check off another Cafe2Cafe. After lunch we negotiated the dirt back road from Ovando to Helmsville. All of these roads offered time off the highway, lots of scenery and some sense of adventure, but nothing challenging. Definitely nothing that warranted a Snow Meter. But as a little more of a challenge we decided to try to find the way to Garnet Ghost Town. Yes, originally the challenge was just how to get to Garnet from the frontage road, which is off I-90 between Drummond & Bearmouth. Now, I'd been on this road but coming from the other way, from Hiway 200. On that ride I have to admit, I was never sure how I got to I-90 from Hiway 200 as all the signs were either unreadable from becoming target practice or only the name of drainages were on existing signs, never a sign that said "I-90, this way". So yes, the original challenge was just finding the right road to the ghost town coming from the I-90 side. It started off positively at the frontage road junction, with a sign pointing north, that said Garnet Ghost Town 10 miles. About half way up things changed. We came to a sign that said "Detour". (I think the Snow Meter might have started to throb at this point). The nice wide access road heading up into the mountains became narrower but pretty typical for a Forest Service kind



of road. It was even marked with mileages. We were steadily climbing dodging a few rocks the sun had loosened from the side hills but at about mile 8 we started to see water on the road stemming from guess what?...melting snow up above the road bed, making it a little muddy. (Snow Meter starting to gurgle). As we passed the 9 mile mark by gosh there was the snow. (Snow Meter would be really climbing now). Well, we went thru a little snow but to make a long story short, we decidedly went from a down in the valley, golfing mentality, to a up in the mountains, skiing mentality, in less than a quarter mile. The snow now completely covered the road. (Snow Meter be now'd

blasting & maybe I shouldn't have had ear plugs in). So the easy laid-back dirt ride turned (in about a nanosecond) into an adventure ride w/ me going down in a big way, luckily at slow speed. Where was that Snow Meter when I needed it? Thus my reason for this new farkle. Good thing friends were along as I didn't have a *come-a-long* with me. That made it easier to get picked up and get turned around. Now taking the road down, back to the lower valley and golf mentality. So now you know, before you head up in elevation this time of year, purchase that Snow Meter & get it installed! Don't leave home

**BMW Motorcycle Club**  
**Montana BMW Riders**



### CLUB CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS

**BMWMOA #155**

**BMW RA #072**

**AMA #6830**

### NEXT MEETING

**MAY 15**

**1:00 PM**

**PHILSBURG**

**SUNSHINE STATION**

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without it.

In April we had a huge turnout for the ride to Lincoln. Lincoln has always been a popular meeting place but moving it back on the calendar a couple of months has increased participation even more. The back room at *Lambkins* was full of members enjoying lunch and talking motorcycles. I counted about 35 people, a few less than last year but not by many. Almost everyone rode. The weather was gorgeous & Lambkins did a great job.

In May we have lots going on. The YMCA Riverbank Run is May 7<sup>th</sup>. We have plenty of volunteers. Thanks to Dave McCormack & Carol & Gary Graham. The annual 'Ride-In Tech Session' to Kevin & Annie Huddy's will be the weekend of May 21-22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great way to get some maintenance done on your bike, have some great fellowship as well as enjoy the great hospitality the Huddy's offer at the Huddy Outpost in Helena. See their blurb further on in the newsletter. Please let them know as soon as you can if you are attending; Annie [huddya@hotmail.com](mailto:huddya@hotmail.com) or 406-438-6793.

I hope you are all enjoying this weather friendly/ride friendly spring. Are you getting some Cafe2Cafe riding in? I know some have really gotten going early on Kevin's list of Cafes. Most of the ride season is in front of us but don't wait to "cram". Along with quite a diverse list of Cafes is quite the diverse distances to some of them. I'm hearing some great stories from those who have started already. This Café2Cafe is a great excuse to put on some quality miles this year. Thanks again to Kevin for organizing it

Our May meeting is Sunday, May 15. Place is Philipsburg, MT. Location is The Sunshine Station right on Hiway 1 before the turn in to the town of Philipsburg. Time is 1:00 as always. And May is our month to celebrate everyone's birthday. Bring your sweet tooth. There will be cake after lunch! Bring a friend & show'm what a great club we have. Hope to see you there.

Till then, Happy Trails!!

*Chuck*



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# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## Mileage Corner

Mileage junkies... from the "official participants" in our Montana BMW Riders 2016 Mileage contest it's going to be a pretty bleak year for our favorite motorcycle dealer! As of 4/29, I have only received beginning mileage numbers from: Gary Armstrong, Randy Carpenter, Ave Forseth, Annie Huddy, Marg Lang, Kim Lemke, Dave McCormack, Mike and Donna McInerney, Gordon Phillips, Chuck Reaves, Gary & Carol Graham, John Webster, Ernest Coulson, and myself, a total of 16. Given the number that I understand have signed up for the C2C contest, I am hoping to get a few more. The cut off for "official participants" is May 9<sup>th</sup>, so by the time you get the newsletter, you'll have time to get your mileage to me. You can email it to: [beemermt@msn.com](mailto:beemermt@msn.com). Given the great early-spring weather and the number of café's that have been visited, it should be a productive riding season! I also understand that our Gold Wing brethren aren't going to participate in our mileage contest this year, so us "lesser mortals" should have a better chance of producing a winning number.

Thanks to everyone for your participation... See you somewhere along the route this summer!

Larry Banister  
Mileage Contest Coordinator

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## THREE FLAGS CLASSIC COMING THROUGH MONTANA!

Many of our club have participated in the Southern California Motorcycle Association's annual labor day ride entitled "The Three Flags Classic" where the registered riders ride from Mexico to Canada over the Labor Day weekend. It is a great time and the riders must pass through official check points and have their passports stamped in order to "officially complete". It has been several years since they came through Montana but when the ride comes through Montana, I am their contact to help organize Montana's checkpoint. They have contacted me with the information that this years ride will have the Montana checkpoint in Helena at Jorgensen's Inns and Suites.

It takes a number of folks to run the checkpoint. We break the shifts into increments, usually with at least 4 to a shift so that we can meet the riders needs and have some fun doing it. We provide them with food, coffee, fellowship, information about the area and of course, officially record their passing and stamp their passports.

If you want information concerning the Three Flags Classic, log onto their website: [www.sc-ma.com/rides/three-flags-classic-tour](http://www.sc-ma.com/rides/three-flags-classic-tour) and click on the tag that says "click here to read the update". They do not have the actual route posted, but they do have the checkpoints listed. Specific hours of the checkpoint are not yet listed, but will be forthcoming. As more details are available, I will let you know.

At this point in time Kim Lemke, Chuck Reaves, Kevin and Annie Huddy, and Dick French have volunteered. (Dave McCormack has some weak excuse of being on vacation in Europe during that time!!) While I know it's considerably in advance of the event, I'm asking you to look at your calendars and if you have the weekend free (or any day of it) to let me know that you are willing to help and I'll begin the process of getting our volunteer roster going. You can drop me an email at:



Kim Lemke. An early rider. 1995

[beemermt@msn.com](mailto:beemermt@msn.com), or call me 406-728-8914.

This is a really fun event. You'll meet wonderful motorcycle riders from all over the world and all of them are having a great time! You'll also see some really neat motorcycles set up for long-distance riding! Who knows, you may even meet someone you know who is participating.

Larry Banister  
Montana BMW Riders

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Mileage Coordinator/Safety Mom/ and Three Flags Checkpoint Coordinator



From Our Guatemala Reporter - Chris Keyes



## Guatemala Signage

Common Scenes Here That You Hardly Ever See Back Home. A cozy corner perfectly suited to parking the bike while running a few errands in the shopping center. And perhaps also sneaking a discreet pee? Perhaps not. The municipality of Quetzaltenango is watching. "Do Not Urinate. \$65 fine. It Is Being Filmed."



Fried Chicken delivery bikes

## SAFETY CORNER

I presume by now you've gotten the scooter out of the garage, charged the battery, checked the tire pressure and fluids and cranked it up for some wonderful spring riding??!! This "Safety Corner" article will either be relevant or entertaining depending on your physical age and condition. I've been reading more and more articles on the "maturing rider", most of which are very encouraging, because the maturing rider has lots of experience that he/she brings with them to the ride. (Not to mention most are beyond the era of invincibility and thus less inclined to do things that are....well not so smart!) However, as maturing riders, there are a number of factual realities that while we may choose to ignore them...none-the-less are extremely vital to our continuing to enjoy the riding sport we do. We don't: hear as well, see as well, are less resilient, more prone to fatigue, our night vision isn't as good as it used to be, we aren't as physically

strong and most importantly, our reaction times are slower. A realistic evaluation of ourselves should lead us to conform our riding to our current skill set, which may well include slowing down a bit, taking more frequent breaks during the ride, planning shorter days, avoiding low-visibility situations and giving ourselves more room to maneuver while in high traffic environments. I know personally, this season I have gravitated toward a smaller, lighter motorcycle which weighs over 160# less than my old, favorite ride. While I may sacrifice a bit of the protection and long-distance comfort of my old ride, the new ride is so much easier to handle, and certainly provides more than adequate transport for my current riding adventures. Now all I have to do is remember that while my ride has changed, my physical condition hasn't! I encourage you to realistically evaluate yourself and manage your ride accordingly. Remember: "There are wild and crazy motorcyclists, there just aren't any old wild and crazy motorcyclists".

Ride well and safe...see you someplace along the road this summer!

Larry Banister, Safety Mom  
Montana BMW Riders


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## Café to Café Update

It's not too late to begin the Cafe To Cafe contest. Riders have until November 15th to get as many of the selected cafes as possible. Visit the March Newsletter for the list of cafes ([https://mtbmriders.org/uploads/Newsletter\\_2016-04.pdf](https://mtbmriders.org/uploads/Newsletter_2016-04.pdf)). To get started all you need to do is email Kevin Huddy ([klhuddy@hotmail.com](mailto:klhuddy@hotmail.com)) and he will provide you with the contest rules and tell you how to compete in the optional Big Sky Motorsports concurrent contest that offers a \$250 first prize!

**We're on the Web:**  
[www.mtbmriders.org](http://www.mtbmriders.org)

**And on Facebook:**  
**Montana BMW Riders**

FamilyDental 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

## TOSRV

**THE TOUR OF THE SWAN RIVER VALLEY**  
 is an annual bicycle ride beginning on  
 the U of M campus in Missoula and end-  
 ing there the next day. The first day's  
 target is Big Fork. It is a bicycle ride that  
 the MT BMW Riders Club has marshaled  
 for years and we will do it again this  
 year. Mark Cadwallader is the organizer  
 and would like your help in making sure  
 bicyclists are safe and looked after while  
 they toil along narrow bike lanes. **June 4-  
 5** is the date and letting Mark know or  
 getting more info merely e-mail him. The  
 TOSRV is on June 4-5. E-mail Mark at  
[svpllcmt@gmail.com](mailto:svpllcmt@gmail.com) for more info or to  
 sign up. Or call at 406-444-0280 and  
 leave message. A great way to spend a  
 day or half a day or 2 days.

## 2016 RIDE SCHEDULE

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| January 16   | Seeley Lake...Double Arrow Re-<br>sort<br>Lodge... <u>a Saturday</u>   |
| 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<br>... <u>a Saturday &amp; Sunday</u> |
| June 18      | Big Fork...Echo Lake Café<br>... <u>a Saturday</u>                     |
| July 17      | Bozeman...Kountry Korner Café<br>... <u>a Saturday</u>                 |
| August 14    | Wisdom...The Crossings Restau-<br>rant<br>@ Fetty's                    |
| September 17 | Fort Benton... The Club House<br>... <u>a Saturday</u>                 |
| October 16   | Ovando...Trixie's  |
| November 20  | Drummond...Wagon Wheel   |
| December 3   | Christmas Party @ Big Sky Motor<br>Sports                              |

Monthly rides normally will occur on Sunday unless otherwise stat-  
 ed. Our standard meeting time is 1

### WANT TO TUNE UP YOUR RIDING SKILLS?

There are a number of courses in your area put on by  
 Rider Coaches as part of the state's effort to add a de-  
 gree of safety to motorcycle riding. Check in at

<http://motorcycle.msun.edu/>

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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.

Chief Joseph Rally John Day, Oregon...June 17-19,2016

Red Rock Rendezvous...Panguitch, Utah...June 18-21, 2016

BMW-MOA Rally...Hamburg, NY...July 14-16, 2016

Rocky Bow Lunatic Fringe Rally...Cochrane, Alberta... July 23-25

Cascade Country Rendezvous...Republic, WA...7-21-24, 2016

Top of the Rockies Rally...Paonia, CO...7-21-24, 2016

Broken Arrow Rally...Gibbonsville, ID...July 22-24, 2016

Sturgis...August 8-14, 2016

Stanley Stomp...Grandjean, Idaho...August 11-14, 2016

Beartooth Rendezvous...August 18-21-2016



Your intrepid Editor, thinking that Wisdom was one of the C2C cafes. Shouldn't be allowed out.

## Local Events and Rallies



## TECH DAY NOTICE

**You are invited to the third annual Do It Yourself Basic Maintenance Tech Session, Saturday, May 21st, @ The Huddy's Outpost, near Helena:**

Get your motorcycle ready for a summer of riding by performing basic maintenance in a well-equipped shop and with the help of other experienced riders. The shop includes a motorcycle lift, air-compressor, tire changer, carb/throttle body synching meters, GS911 code reader and an assortment of common tools. You provide the tires, oil, filters, plugs and other consumables. If you are having the tires shipped you can have them shipped directly to the Huddy's or bring them with you. Old tires can be left for disposal, as can old oil and filters. If you are new to working on your bike there will be others there to assist; including changing tires. Starts at 9 AM and runs until whenever on Saturday, 21 May.

The Huddy's have bunks and other places to sleep or camp for those that would like to arrive Friday evening (May 20) and/or stay Saturday night. There will be a BBQ on Saturday afternoon and other sustenance for those who are arriving early or staying longer; BYOB.

New for this year will be a sales table. If you have a motorcycle related item you wish to sell, then bring it with you. There will be a table where you can display the item to see if anyone is interested in purchasing it.

The Outpost is located approximately seven miles west of I15 or approximately 23 miles east of Flesher Pass just off of Lincoln Road at 6750 Silver Fox Court. **Please RSVP** to Kevin Huddy at [klhuddy@hotmail.com](mailto:klhuddy@hotmail.com) no later than 15 May. For more information or to arrange tire delivery you can email Kevin.

\*\*\*

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## *Lincoln Pictures*





# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

*Pics from Chuck's further adventures...*



If you have seen too much of Chuck and his pictures, send us **your** pictures... we'd love to post them here in the newsletter ...and on Facebook too....along with select shots for the Web Page.

If you're busy doing the Café to Café...send us your café discovery pics when you turn them in to Kevin. All of us would like to know what the Cafe looks like so we won't miss it.

