

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



CLUB CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS

BMWMOA #155

BMW RA #072

AMA #6830

Don't get me wrong...I'm not trying to jinx the weather...but based on the obvious weather history of years gone by, (excluding predictions of the Farmer's Almanac) we are coming to the close of another riding season. Definitely sorry to see it go. Certainly we all have regrets of rides/rallies we didn't get to. Hopefully the ones you did participate in were good ones that brought new ideas as well as new found friends into your motorcycling world.

Thanks to Kevin Huddy organizing the Café2Café. I'll have to admit that was the cause of an increase in my miles. Didn't get to all of them, but did enjoy the ones I went to. I hope you did as well. Checking out old haunts, being exposed to new people & places & great food for the most part) made this a great venue to participate in. If you did not participate, I hope you will next year. I know I certainly look forward to seeing what new places Kevin will have us adventure to next summer. Thanks again, Kevin.



Being out of town for the September ride, I was mightily impressed with the number of riders making the ride to Fort Benton. That was a ride! Annie Huddy reported 11 riders made it *The Club House* on a fairly windy day. She said for her, coming from Helena, it put 345 miles on the clock. That makes for some dedicated riders especially since she also reported the weather was not balmy, in fact for most riders their #1 nemesis, WIND,

made the ride a little bumpy. Those braving the wind and pouring on the miles earning the name *Enthusiasts* were: from Helena...Bob Rennick, K1300S, John Beyrau, R80GS, Kevin Huddy, Yamaha Super T, Annie Huddy, F800GS, Bill Erhardt, F650GS. From Bozeman...Guy Bonnand, Harley Davidson Road King.

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 16

OVANDO

TRIXIES

From Townsend...Don Davis, Can-Am Spyder RTL. From Cascade...Tom Wrobel, F650GS. From Great Falls...Ole Greenway, Honda GL-1000 & Charles Rosell, F800GS. And last but not least the lone Missoula rider...John Torma, K1200LT. Kudos to all of you!

I would like to point out that we are always looking for new places to fill in for locations for rides. Now is the time to start thinking about next year's locations for those monthly rides. We do have some places and months that have become annual standbys but we can adjust months to ride; as in changing the ride to Lincoln from February to the spring. March is always a hard month to fill in as it is "shoulder season" and

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SAFETY CORNER

you never know whether to bring outriggers for the bikes or not. At the very least, it's usually a soup day no matter what. Anyway, let us know by mid-November what your choices might be. We will try to accommodate, which we did this year specifically for Bozeman and Fort Benton. Ironically the recommenders didn't make the meeting they recommended.

Won't say any names but their initials are McCormack and Bonnard. May have to produce a traveling trophy for you two; some kind of boat. I think they were both playing on the water on their respective week-ends. Ahh, summer, if offers so many distractions.

Also, give it some thought as you may want to pass along any recommendations for great cafes you ran in to this year. I'm sure Mr. Kevin Huddy will be looking for some new ones for next year's Cafe2Cafe. And if you hadn't heard, the location for the national BMW-MOA rally will be in Salt Lake City mid-July 2017. Anyone know a good café there?!

Hope to see you next month at Trixie's in Ovando. It's Sunday, October 16th. Same time...1:00 PM. Bring a friend.

Other than that we are almost done for this year. The mileage contest ends the middle of this month, Cafe2Cafe November 1.

There of course is the Christmas Party at Big Sky Motorsports in Missoula on Saturday December 3rd. And our last potential location for riding is The Wagon Wheel in Drummond, Sunday November 20th.

Happy Trails!!

Chuck

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Fall is definitely upon us and with it comes the conundrum...really nice clear, crisp days, perfect for riding and really nice clear crisp days containing hidden challenges!

First, the sun comes up later and goes down earlier, casting long shadows in the corners and on the north facing slopes. The lowering angle of the sun means extended periods of time when we're looking directly into the rising or setting sun and can't see! Second, the extended shadows are not only dark, but mask the lingering frost and potentially the liquid de-icer spread by the highway department which can be just as slick as the frost. Finally, the ever present deer can be in these shadows and you can't see them!

Secondly, the morning and evening temperatures are cooler and depending on your route, they can be much cooler! So, staying warm not only translates to comfort but translates into being able to pay attention to riding and warding off the ever present danger of numb hands and feet or the more serious condition....hyperthermia, where bodily functions and brain functions are severely diminished. Electrics are a great accessory this time of the year. If you don't have electrics, remember the additional layers required can impair your ability to freely maneuver on your bike and more specifically restrict the movement of your head, thus impairing your ability to SCAN!

Lastly, check the weather before you depart because this time of year, forecasted rain can turn into snow and depending on the timing, location and duration of snow, it can be a trip ending event!

So enjoy these great riding days, but recognize they bring with them some additional challenges!!

Larry Banister

Safety Mom-Montana BMW Riders

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THREE FLAGS CLASSIC REPORT

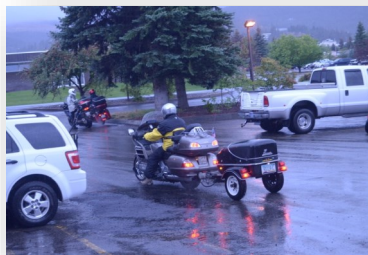
As they say, "you had to be there to believe it"! 18 volunteers gathered at Jorgenson's Inns and Suites to man the Day weekend check-point for riders entering the US via Mexico and Canada on Southern California motorcycle Association's annual Three Flags Classic. Encompassing a group of over 220 registered riders, the participants left the border of Mexico on Friday morning, September 2, headed for the finish in Canada on Monday, September 5th. Their route brought them through checkpoint #3 in Helena, mostly on Sunday, September 4th.



When we arrived in Helena on Friday looking for a place to set up the checkpoint, the sun was shining and it was in the mid 80's. As we discussed the place in the parking lot we'd selected, the manager of the motel offered us an interior room immediately adjacent to the parking



lot. The weather forecast for the weekend was 100% chance of rain with a winter weather advisory out for snow above 6,000 feet! Finding that a bit hard to believe looking at Friday's sun in the parking lot, we none-the-less accepted the offer thinking that maybe discretion is the better part of valor. It turned out to be too true. It started to rain mid-day on Saturday, rained all night and really got serious on Sunday. Riders arrived drenched, frozen and in serious need of a warm room, heat and some hot soup,



which we were able to provide. For those willing to brave the parking lot, there were some serious long-distance bikes out there and the amazing humor of the wet riders inside, there were some serious long-distance riders engaged in this ride (including one co-rider who was actually dressed in a mesh riding suit! She was so cold and wet that one of our lady volunteers drove her to her motel!!) It seems that many of the riders were southern California folks who were totally unprepared for the wet and cold.

Many thanks to the Montana BMW riders who volunteered (Kevin and Annie Huddy...who co-captained the

check point and were wonderful, Larry & Liz Banister, also co-captains, Chuck Reaves and Kim Lemke...who pulled the Saturday afternoon shift and left without seeing a single rider come in!!!, Dick French and Sandy Knudson who took the Sunday 5:00am shift! and John and Janet Webster who pulled the mid-day Sunday shift and saw a bulk of the riders!

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We also saw the famous John Beyrau from Helena who rode into the check point a number of times on his old BMW twin. John took a number of photos and was a great help in assisting the riders. In addition to our

Montana BMW rider volunteers, we had David Wheeler, Carol Gruwell and her daughters Sarah and Laura, Jim and Los Frazer and Ed and Sharon Tregidga from Montana CMA who rounded out our volunteer crew. Thanks to everyone for making this a really successful event. As I told one of the riders, usually I'm envious of them riding through the checkpoint and off into the sunset while I sit and watch.... however, this was not the case this year. I was more than willing to watch them ride off into the pouring rain with temps in the mid 40's while I sat in a warm room!

Larry Banister/Co-Captain...
3 Flags Check point.

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Mileage Contest

Well, ladies and gentlemen...with September half over and October just around the corner, the 2016 Mileage contest will be coming to a close on October 15th. I know there have been a ton of miles ridden on the C2C and some of the folks in that adventure are also participants in the mileage contest so we should have a great year. For those of you participating in the BMWMOA mileage contest, send me a copy of your ending form. For those of you who are just participating in our local Montana BMW Riders contest, email (beemermt@msn.com) or snail mail me (102 Ironwood Place, Missoula, MT 59803) your ending mileage. We'll be announcing the winners and awarding the awesome prizes at the annual Christmas Party at Big Sky BMW.

Larry Banister

Mileage Contest Coordinator, Montana BMW Riders

ALL THE GEAR, ALL THE TIME (ATTGATT)

(ED. Note: This article came to me from a member and it is worth reading for 2 reasons,... the gear and the BMWMOA Rally...we're only endorsing the BMWMOA Rally, however.)

MILTONA, Minn. — "All the gear, all the time."

By [Celeste Edenloff / Forum News Service](#)

August 29, 2016 at 12:12 pm

This is a motto that Jim and Jaque Rasmussen live by when riding their motorcycles. And it was Jim's gear that helped save his life late last month.

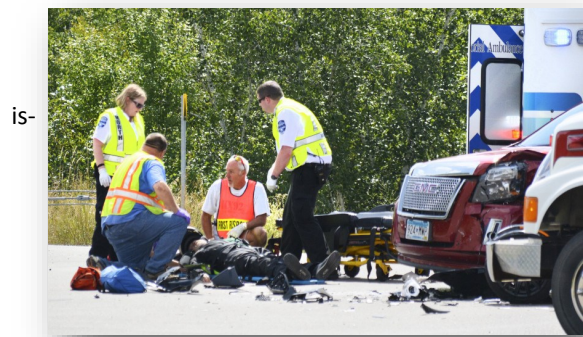
It was late in the afternoon on July 29, a Friday, when Jim took off from their home in Miltona and headed down Minnesota 29 on his motorcycle. He was heading to Glenwood, Minn. The 74-year-old had gone less than two miles, to the intersection of County Road 5, when a vehicle pulled out in front of him. "I hit the front of the car and apparently, I went flying," Rasmussen said.

When Miltona Fire Department assistant chief and a first responder Kyle Grinager heard his pager go off alerting him to a motorcycle crash, he immediately started thinking about the scene and what he could possibly roll up on.

"I was thinking this was going to be a bad, ugly deal," Grinager said. "I was expecting to see a mangled, bloody mess." However, Grinager was in for a surprise.

The scene was not at all like the images he had pictured in his mind.

"I walked up to him (Rasmussen) lying on the ground and he was talking," he said. "He was telling us he was OK. There was no



blood. I thought, this just n't right."

is-

'UNBELIEVABLE' LACK OF INJURY

Jim Rasmussen shows some of his gear he wears when he takes to the road on his motorcycle.

Grinager said it took him a few minutes to survey the scene and then he saw a tethered cord and asked Rasmussen what it was. Rasmussen told him it was his vest — a Helite airbag vest. When Rasmussen was thrown, a cord tethered to the Can Am motorcycle instantly inflated air pockets in the vest, breaking his fall and stabilizing his neck and head, which was covered by a helmet.

"It was crazy. After a complete T-bone crash and being thrown 12 to 15 feet in the air, I thought there was no way he could have survived," Grinager said.

Rasmussen doesn't remember exactly what happened. All he knows is that a car pulled out and he hit his brakes; the next thing he remembers, faces from the Miltona first responders were staring down at him.

Shortly after he was on scene, Grinager said he called into the dispatch center and canceled the LifeLink helicopter, which already had been called to the scene. He said the dispatcher had him repeat what he had said because most similar motorcycle crashes need such evacuation.

"I told them we didn't need it, that the guy was OK. There was no evidence of any serious injury," Grinager said. "It was seriously crazy. Unbelievable."

Jim was riding his Can Am roadster motorcycle, which he bought last fall after he traded in his BMW motorcycle. The Can Am, with its two front wheels and one back wheel, was more stable for the aging motorcyclist, he said.

Although the motorcycle has changed, the amount of gear Rasmussen wears has not. Whenever they ride, the Rasmussens are fully outfitted in specific motorcycle gear including helmet, jacket, pants, gloves and boots that Jim says "won't fall off." The pants and jackets are made of special material that they noted is like Kevlar. It is breathable and stiff, designed specifically for motorcyclists. It is a heavier material than the leather gear usually associated with motorcycle riders.

Last year, there was an addition to the Rasmussens' riding attire. While at the national **BMW MOA rally**, the Rasmussens bought the Helite airbag vests — one for each of them. Rasmussen thought they were a bit expensive, but his wife thought they were the best invention.

The retirees — he was a pharmacist, she an emergency-room

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nurse — have been riding motorcycles for close to 40 years. They have logged about 400,000 miles, having ridden to New Mexico, Michigan, California, New York, Vermont, Canada and elsewhere, all without incident.

After the crash, both Jim and Jaque really believe in the worth of their gear. “We have always had gear on,” said Jim. “It’s hideously expensive, but definitely worth it.” Jim said that although he spent the night in the hospital, he basically “walked away” from the crash, something he believes wouldn’t have happened had he not

been wearing protective clothing. He did end up with a broken wrist and a concussion and must follow up with a neurologist.

Jaque said that compared to have been. “He broke his back. He didn’t get a broken neck. He’s not paralyzed. He’s not broken. It’s a very good outcome.” Grinager has joined the Montana Fire Department



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different from most accidents seen. Since joining the Montana Fire Department and becoming

a first responder in 2009, Grinager has been called to about six or seven motorcycle crashes.

“That crash was eye-opening,” said Grinager, who said he would highly recommend all motorcyclists to consider wearing the type of gear Rasmussen was wearing. “It’s definitely worth it.”

As for his gear, Jim said the back of his helmet was slightly crushed and scratched and there were two very small scrapes on his clothing — one on his pants and another on a vest pocket. His Can Am motorcycle, however, was totaled. As for when he’ll get a new one, Jim isn’t so sure. He hasn’t been on a motorcycle since the accident.

“I might be done,” he said. “But who knows. Never say never, I guess.”

ABOUT THE VEST

The Helite vest provides a rigid neck brace, as well as firm support to the spine and back, chest, rib and kidneys and also provides hip and pelvic protection. The vest can be tethered to the handlebars of a motorcycle. Upon activation, a spring-loaded piston pierces the CO2 cartridge on the front of the vest and rapidly inflates the airbag around the neck and body. The air chambers are designed to stabilize the neck, spine and torso, reducing the impact to vital organs. Once the vest is deployed, it stays inflated for about 15 TO 20 seconds, then deflates. Once the used CO2 cartridge is replaced with a new one, the vest is ready to be used again.

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2016 RIDE SCHEDULE

JANUARY 16	SEELEY LAKE ... DOUBLE ARROW LODGE	A SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 21	AVON ... AVON CAFÉ	A SUNDAY
MARCH 20	WHITEHALL ... TWO BIT SALOON	A SUNDAY
APRIL 17	LINCOLN ... LAMBKINS	A SUNDAY
MAY 15	PHILIPSBURG ... SUNSHINE STATION	A SUNDAY
MAY 20-22	TECH DAY @ THE HUDDY'S—HELENA	A SAT. & SUN'
JUNE 18	BIG FORK ... ECHO LAKE CAFÉ	A SATURDAY
JULY 16	BOZEMAN ... KOUNTRY KORNER KAFE	A SATURDAY
AUGUST 14	WISDOM ... THE CROSSINGS RESTAURANT	A SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17	FT. BENTON ... THE CLUB HOUSE	A SATURDAY
OCTOBER 16	OVANDO ... TRIXIE'S SALOON	A SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 20	DRUMMOND ... WAGON WHEEL	A SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3	CHRISTMAS PARTY 5 PM — 8 PM	A SATURDAY

AT BIG SKY MOTORSPORTS

Monthly rides normally will occur on Sunday unless otherwise stated. Our standard meeting time is 1:00 pm to allow local restaurants to handle our crowd away of the normal lunch times. Please try to observe this custom, as we want to be invited back to many of our ride restaurants.

RANDOM PICTURES SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS



MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

We're on the Web:

www.mtBMWriders.org

We're on Facebook Too:

MONTANA BMW Riders

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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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

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Cafe2Cafe Update

The latest news on C2C is that there are several folks having achieved 37 cafes so far and many more trying hard, given the weather and temperatures.

The Café 2 Café exercise is still active and closes officially on November 15, 2016.

Need more incentives or information?

E-mail Kevin Huddy at

huddykl@gmail.com