

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

BMW Motorcycle Club
Montana BMW Riders



CLUB CHARTER
MEMBERSHIPS :

BMWMOA #155

BMW RA #072

AMA #6830

NEXT MEETING

AVON

AVON CAFÉ

FEBRUARY 18

SUNDAY, 1:00 PM

HOME OF THE NEXT BEST RIDE

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



This is the time of the Winter Moon. A term, my favorite motorcycle author, Peter Eagan uses to describe this time of year for us motorcyclists in the northern climes.

That's us, that's the phase our moon is in now. Like us, Eagan lives above the 47th parallel in the upper Midwest, a place known as Wisconsin. Like us, there is no riding this time of year, well almost never. It's a time to repair, a time to research, a time to plan. Ski, snowmobile, fish over ice, yes. But you're not riding your motorcycle unless you shovel the snow off the trailer and take the bike down to more southern climes.

So, follow Dick French's example; get out the maps or GPS and start planning/looking/researching for those 'nice summer rides'. They could be local or afar. After our off-road class with Fran Tully, Dick has decided (and Larry Banister and I agree), we are looking at off-road pathways Dick defines as "Winnebago Roads". Luckily there are many in this part of Montana and close by in Idaho. Winnebago Roads are dirt roads or back roads that you don't have to take all your survival gear on, roads that if you needed rescue, you could be taken out by Winnebago, not a life flight helicopter. As I'm getting older, I appreciate the idea of these kind of roads more and more.

Though we are not riding we are talking motorcycles and one of the new things instituted in 2017 is the club breakfast the first Saturday of each month. These are laid back affairs meant to give members a venue to talk motorcycles. We meet at a different place each time, and once the moon changes phases, we'll be riding there, not driving there. Seems there have been lots of positive comments.

Maybe because one thing we all have in common other than riding is eating!

Looking forward, the executive committee is planning things to make the club better. Some things coming this year:

1) Kevin Huddy has laid out a great idea, Club Scholarships for anyone in the club taking motorcycle classes that make you a safer and better rider. Details to come in the March issue.

2) Archiving favorite rides. Rides local or nearby. So, if you have some rides you love, write them up and send to Mike Wright our very capable webmaster. It's up to you how to submit these. It could be anything from an embellishment of that memorable ride to just an iteration stating only the highway numbers and town names along the way. Although good places you've found for pie... should be required!

3) Rider contact list... We've kind of put ourselves in a corner with our membership form. The last question on the form asks: "Do you want your email kept private?" We all want that, I understand. But we are getting a lot of club members who want to be able to contact other members within the club, so they can find someone to ride with or meet with for a Winter Moon coffee. Since one of the main reasons for being a club is finding other members to ride with, we want to make this happen. Starting in April, we will make a list of members giving their names, hometowns, email and phone number and riding style. That list will be available to paid members either at meetings or by email per your request to club officers, Chuck Reaves or Chris Keyes. We do promise not to give out your email, to anyone except club members. If you are uncomfortable with this, let me know, and I will make sure your email is not shared, even within the club. Please let me know by March 1, if you do not want

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to be included. After March 1st that contact information will be available as per above.

Speaking of the club and alluding to what we are about...I'm enclosing a link to a good article I got from the January 2018 issue of the AMA. (<http://magazine.americanmotorcyclist.com/2913/advocating-for-motorcyclings-future/>)

This talks about what it means to be a motorcyclist, to ride, and passing that along to newbies young or old. It seems us independent cusses are getting fewer in number for a few reasons. This article is a reminder of what we need to do to plant the seed with others of this great sport of motorcycling and ways to make that happen.



(Ed. Note: We've always had trouble getting pictures here because of the darn windows.)

seeing our ride schedule on-line...**Phil Yasenak**, also from Missoula.

Our February meeting will be February 18, a Sunday at the Avon Café in Avon. Time, as always, 1:00 PM. Look forward to seeing you there and please bring a friend.

Happy Trails!!

Chuck



Photo: Ed Field

2018 PARK2PARK CONTEST



Spring is just around the corner. You are starting to think of getting your bike ready to hit the road when the temperature creeps up to 50 (or maybe 40) degrees and the ice is off the roads. There is no better way to

use those spare moments between now and then than to plot your Park 2 Park routes so you can come home a winner in the Fall. You can discover which body of water has the most parks (6), which park is closest to both another state and another country, which is furthest from pavement and which bear some relationship to the Lewis and Clark expedition. More detailed rules will soon be distributed. In the meantime, join Gary Armstrong in signing up today. Just send an email to Carol and Gary Graham, gandcgraham@gmail.com, letting us know of your interest. Be ready for 'clutches out' on April Fools Day!

Carol & Gary Graham

* * *

Editor's Corner



When you can't ride, you do other stuff. Like, flying to New Orleans and taking a paddle wheeler up the lower half of the Mississippi river in January. The trip was 7 days and that's why the Newsletter is a tad bit late. Didn't get back until

the 2nd of February. By the way, you can't do the Mississippi river on a motorcycle so this trip was one of those that can only be done from a floating boat with fully stocked bars and a bedroom.

Now that I'm back and have really re-read the article on winterizing the bike in an earlier newsletter, I am going into the garage and cleaning up the bike, checking all the systems in preparation for the warming days soon to come... and the Park to Park competition beginning in April.

Carol and Gary Graham have put a "teaser" in the newsletter later on in this issue, and I encourage you to dial them up, sign up, get out your Montana maps and plot your riding season.

Dave

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S CORNER

ATTENTION: FREE MONEY FOR INTELLIGENT MOTORCYCLISTS



Motorcycle rider proficiency training takes three things: interest, time, and money. Training isn't just for novices, and there are so many options beyond just the MSF Basic Rider Course. Most of them are actually best suited to experienced riders with time and miles under their belts. Training engenders proficiency, proficiency enhances safety, and safety reduces risk. You can't erase all the risks out on the roads or trails, but you can certainly constrain some of them by making yourself a more knowledgeable and skillful rider.

So assuming you've got the interest and want to commit the time, here's how to latch onto the money: the BMW MOA's Paul B. Memorial Scholarship fund. The fund is named for Paul Bachorz, a BMW motorcyclist whose passing in 2010 prompted his peers with the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Vermont to honor his name. They provided the endowment that established the fund in 2011. Since then, the BMW MOA Foundation has managed the fund and deepened its pockets.

You don't need to be a BMW MOA member to receive a Paul B. Scholarship, but it does increase the payout. MOA members are eligible for up to \$250 per training, versus \$100 for non-members. The award cannot exceed the actual cost of the training, and you're eligible for just one training per year. During 2017, the foundation awarded \$14,000 in total. It received 122 applications and approved 110 – that's an acceptance rate of more than 90%!

What does the application entail? Well, rest assured, you do NOT need to write an essay titled, "Why I Believe Training Will Help Me Become a Safer and More Proficient Motorcyclist." Instead, the form itself is drop dead simple and can be completed in less than two minutes. Most of it entails correctly entering your own name and contact information. Plus a few details about the training that you want to pursue, of course: the training provider, the cost, the location, and the date(s). Applications should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the training's start. Decisions are reported quickly, typically within 10 days of submission.

Seems like right now is an ideal time to think about this, so why not scheme with a buddy or three, and get your Paul B. application in to the MOA. Maybe you've considered the MSF's one-day Advanced Rider Course, offered by Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety at several sites right here in Montana (Billings, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula)? Or how about a bigger adventure, like California Superbike School with Keith Code, or Total Control Riding Clinic with Lee Parks? Or maybe you're wanting to do more off-pavement riding with confidence. How about one of the ADV trainings with RawHyde in Colorado? Another option is to get a

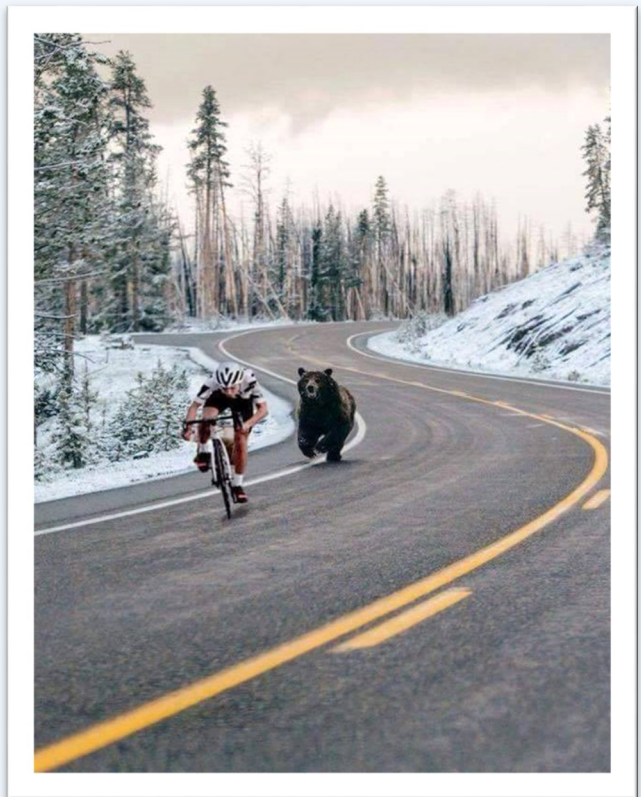
group of riders together and bring a mobile trainer right to your doorstep. It's your choice.

Word seems to be getting around about this great opportunity, and applications are up. Both the January 2018 and February 2018 issues of the MOA's BMW Owners News magazine includes articles from members about their recent Paul B. scholarship training. One of them describes how California's South Coast BMW Riders Club organized a one-day Streetmasters Precision Cornering Workshop for its members last October. First they negotiated a specially-priced members-only workshop with Streetmasters. Then they coordinated their members to write Paul B. scholarship applications. In the end, 29 South Coasters enjoyed a memorable track day together spent mastering cornering skills, slow-speed maneuvering, braking, and more. What a great group activity for that club, and what a great benefit for the 29 members that took that initiative. And what a great legacy for Paul Bachorz and the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Vermont.

This is easy, people! To apply, or for more information, visit the Paul B. Memorial Scholarship website at: <http://www.bmwmoa.org/page/paulb>. And if rider proficiency training is something you're interested in, and you'd like to see this club doing more to coordinate it, tell a club officer.

Chris Keyes

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Montana Meals on Wheels

MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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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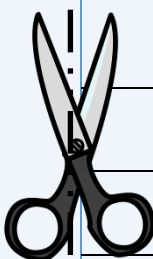
We're on Facebook Too:

MONTANA BMW Riders

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2018 Ride Schedule

Month	Date	City	Place	Sat/Sun	Time
✓ Jan	20	Seeley Lake	Double Arrow Lodge	Sat	1:00 PM
Feb	18	Avon	Avon Cafe	Sun	1:00 PM
Mar	18	Missoula	The Press Box	Sun	1:00 PM
Apr	15	Lincoln	Lambkins	Sun	1:00 PM
May	20	Philpsburg	Sunshine Café	Sun	1:00 PM
Jun	16	Big Fork	Echo Lake Cafe	Sat	1:00 PM
Jul	21	Choteau	Log Cabin	Sat	1:00 PM
Aug	19	Wisdom	The Crossings	Sun	1:00 PM
Sep	15	Three Forks	Sacajawea Inn	Sat	1:00 PM
Oct	21	Ovando	Trixi's	Sun	1:00 PM
Nov	18	Drummond	Wagon Wheel	Sun	1:00 PM
Dec	8	Missoula	Big Sky Motorsports	Sat	5:30-8:30 PM



For this coming year, 2018, we've listened. As a result, we've added two different meeting places that you might find challenging: The Press Box in Missoula in March and the Sacajawea Inn in Three Forks in September.

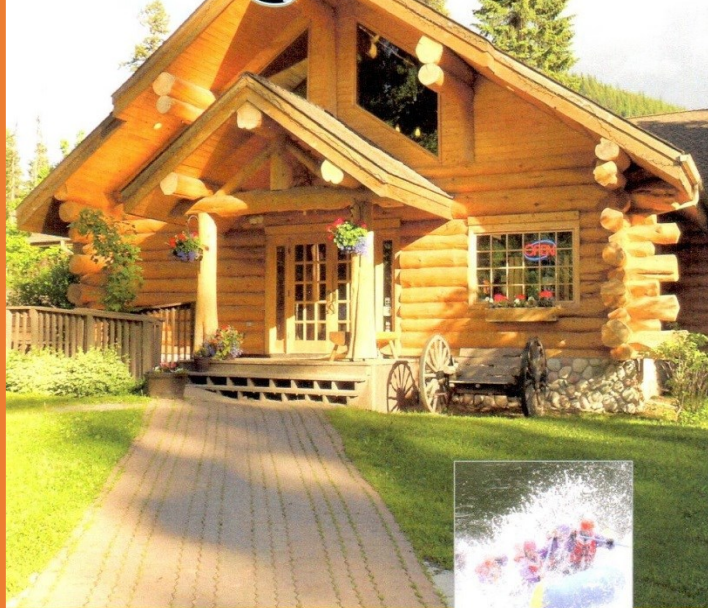
We always have some favorite and traditional meeting places, like Lambkins in Lincoln, the Sunshine Station in Philipsburg, the Echo Lake Cafe in Big fork, and the Crossings Restaurant in Wisdom. But we always are open to suggestions for the following year's meetings. So pick a place, tell us about it 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 our riders and be open both Saturday and/or Sunday. Send your suggestions to Chuck Reaves, Chris Keyes or Dave McCormack.

All our meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. so that we don't push local restaurant patrons out and create an issue for the staff. We always call ahead and confirm we are coming. Therefore, we encourage members not to request seating until 1:00 p.m.



POWELL, IDAHO

Lochsa Lodge



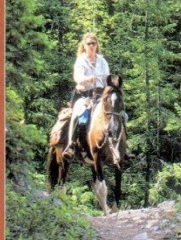
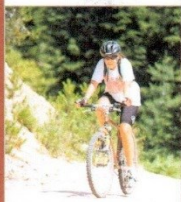
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When you go, tell them you saw their ad in the MT BMW Riders **FEBRUARY** newsletter.



A VERY SATISFIED CUSTOMER... Annie Huddy bought this bike at Big Sky Motorsports on the day of the MT BMW Riders Club Christmas Party. No better endorsement could be had.