

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

BMW Motorcycle Club  
Montana BMW Riders



CLUB CHARTER  
MEMBERSHIPS :

BMWMOA #155

BMW RA #072

AMA #6830

**NEXT MEETING**

**MISSOULA**

**THE PRESS BOX**

**MARCH 18**

**SUNDAY, 1:00 PM**

**-HOME OF THE NEXT BEST RIDE-**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Since our February newsletter, I've had to dial the 511 number for road reports more than I'd have liked. I should have been more careful about my optimism. After a couple of days in early February where temps had moderated and

ice and snow were started to melt and I'd just got done telling a friend, "Oh yeah, we usually have a week during February where the temps moderate and you can actually get your bike out!" Well, not this February. My family drove in a winter storm to Kalispell for an outdoor wedding. Who does an outdoor wedding in Montana in February?! (this couple would make great motorcyclists). Right after the bride and her dad rode up on horses, and matrimonial vows spoken, the blizzard of '18 hit. Holy Cow! By the time of the reception, you needed to be an Olympic gold medalist from Norway to get from the parking lot into the hotel. Another 511 call to go to the Bozone (Bozeman-local lingo) checking road conditions for our departure flight to see family in NC. With the wind, it was a hunker-down minus 1<sup>0</sup> when we left Bozeman but 80<sup>0</sup> upon touchdown in Charlotte. Now that's a pleasant change. My family being communists and owning no motorcycles, I was left frustrated. In checking around, no one rented motorcycles close by. So, I suppose family can be a nice alternative.

Anyway, now that I've returned to the land of winter, it's looking a little more moderate. Might not even need a heavy parka for this coming Saturday's breakfast at the **Pressbox**. During breakfast we'll show excerpts of the Idaho BDR video. We will meet upstairs in their meeting room at 9:00 am.

These monthly breakfasts seem to have been well received and of course it's a good excuse to talk motorcy-

cles, especially this time of year, when motorcycles are shackled to the garage floor.

Speaking of the **Pressbox**, our monthly meeting for March will also be at the **Pressbox** in Missoula on Sunday, March 18. Time is 1:00 PM. It's easy to get to...right off the Van Buren exit in the first block you come to on E. Broadway. After the above-mentioned blizzard, which cancelled our February meeting, folks should have lots to visit about. Ok, some sad news to report is that John Munch of *John's Motor Werks* has been diagnosed with cancer. He's closing his shop as of this month. I hope you folks who have had a relationship with John over the years will give him a call to support him and help lift his spirits. John is not only a great guy but has been a big supporter of our club. Some good news for members...with initial help from Kevin Huddy as well as others, we've decided one of the higher goals of this club is promoting rider safety. This year we'll institute a scholarship program (for paid members only) to offset your costs of taking certified classes that help make you a better and safer rider. Since this is new it will be a work in progress, but for this year the parameters to qualify for a scholarship will be:

**Must** be a paid member and you **Must** take a certified class. For sure MMSF classes will qualify. Some off-road classes will qualify. Some track schools may qualify. Classes will have to be accredited and you will have to show a receipt for payment and a completion certificate. If you have any question as to whether a class will qualify, call me, especially if this money is all important for that class. All receipts will be submitted to Secretary Treasurer Chris Keyes prior to reimbursement.

Again, since this is new to us, we want to be conservative with our club funds. We're in good shape financially. That's why we can offer this program, but we don't want to deplete the treasury over a year or two, so how much we offer this year will be subject to that. I believe we may offer up to \$50.00 per person but limit it to no more than a total of \$350 per year out of the treasury. If we have lots of takers we can pay out less, say \$25.00 per person, and

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# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER MASTHEAD

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.

## Editor's Corner



Woke up on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February with outside temperatures at 3 degrees and the boiler downstairs huffing and puffing to keep up with interior demands. We are propane powered so we try not to spend it foolishly and set interior thermostats at 63 degrees. The garage where 'Vader',

the Can Am Spyder (doesn't every guy name his ride?), lives was at worst, hovering at a comfortable 45 degrees. Clearly, riding weather is a long way off. And, with those temperatures the only places to wash off a bike that didn't get cleaned before winter set in, were all closed or otherwise unable to deliver water at below freezing. My hoses were coiled up in the barn with the well pump turned off. It may have been possible to load the Spyder on a trailer and truck it to an operating car wash but the water would have frozen on the paint work before I could chamois it off. Makes sense to read the articles in the newsletter and then act when appropriate!

So, here I sit doing the more comfortable activity of writing a column to fill some space in the newsletter and communicate some motorcycle stuff to the membership...just so we all keep an eye on the weather. Having positively moved to Montana from the big C west of here years ago, I can honestly say that the only thing I miss about the Golden state is that the weather was rideable all year long. The only downside to that was the traffic you had to endure to get to those colorful back roads the magazines talk about. Yes, and I did lane split there but it scared the hell out of me every time I felt I had to do it... because there always was some jerk lurking, watching his mirrors, ready to squeeze the lane down to force you to apply brakes and wait for traffic to move again...putting you in serious trouble if he kept that narrow gap moving forward. Years ago, in my 20's, when I bought my first bike, a Puch 125cc single, I made the mistake of trying to pass stalled traffic on the right. I perceived there was room still on the asphalt. A jerk opened the passenger door just as I was about to pass and put me in the ditch. Bent the forks and my pride. Never did that again, so lane splitting in my 40's had a special concern for me. I rode to work every day always looking to avoid peak traffic time...there is no such thing anymore... there.

We don't have that kind of traffic here, not even on our so-called freeways so lane splitting here is illegal. But passing on the right isn't unless a cop says it is. Like you, I yearn for sunlight and dry roads, soon, ...please.

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**We're on the Web:**

**[www.mtBMWriders.org](http://www.mtBMWriders.org)**

**We're on Facebook Too:**

**MONTANA BMW Riders**

# ***MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER***

Included in this month's newsletter are the full details of the **Park 2 Park** contest. We say contest, but it really isn't, as the prize is all about you riding and using the contest as an excuse to get out more often and see more of the great state of Montana. Think of it as a reason to value the rides you plan on the same plain as concerts, church and/or work. I've always said, 'if you want something to happen, put it on your calendar with the same value as other appointments there'. You wouldn't miss a meeting with the boss, so don't miss an opportunity to ride.

We have a new advertiser, Vibrant Hearing, headquartered in Missoula. Vibrant doesn't just sell hearing aids, they also do custom ear plugs for folks like you and me. They're offering a 15% discount to club members. And, they have offices in Hamilton, Polson, Plains and Missoula. I can vouch for their ear plugs both the soft ones they hand out to customers and the custom ones that I use when riding and/or shooting.

*Dave*

\* \* \*

## WRIGHT INSURANCE AGENCY

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### **RIDES AND RALLIES**

<b>March 9-11</b>	<b>NW motorcycle show in Spokane, WA</b>
<b>April-28</b>	<b>YMCA Riverbank Run</b>
<b>June 11-15</b>	<b>Sasquatch Dual Sport &amp; GPS Adventure Tour in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon</b>
<b>June 29-July 1</b>	<b>Chief Joseph Rally John Day, Oregon</b>
<b>July 12-15</b>	<b>BMW MOA Rally in Des Moines, Iowa</b>
<b>July 19-22</b>	<b>BMW RA Rally in Wellsboro, PA</b>
<b>July 18-21</b>	<b>Top of the Rockies Rally in Paonia, Colorado</b>
<b>July-23-25 2018</b>	<b>Montana BMW Riders GS weekend ride</b>
<b>July 26-28</b>	<b>Gold Wing Riders Association Rally in Missoula, MT.</b>
<b>No date yet...</b>	<b>Red Rocks Rendezvous in Panguitch, UT</b>
<b>August 3-12 2018</b>	<b>The Sturgis</b>
<b>August 16-19</b>	<b>Beartooth Rendezvous in Red Lodge, MT</b>
<b>August 16-19</b>	<b>BC Beemers Rally In Nakusp, BC</b>
<b>August 22-25</b>	<b>Rally in the Gorge in Hood River, OR put on by Sound Rider</b>

*Ed. Note: So far, the rides above are all we know about for the moment. If you know of similar events, charity rides, or clubs putting on a ride worth doing, let us know and we'll add it/them to our list.*

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## 2018 RIDE SCHEDULE

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

We 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 are open to suggestions for next 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. to serve all our of riders... and be open both Saturday and/or Sunday. Send your suggestions to Chuck Reaves, Chris Keyes or Ed Field.

All our meetings always 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.

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## 2018 PARK2PARK CONTEST

**N**ow for something totally new to help us slim down those waistlines after gorging at all those cafes the last two summers. Kevin Huddy, who has ably managed the prior Café 2 Café contests, has sought early retirement, so the Grahams (Carol and Gary) were coerced into taking over this year. The purpose of the Montana BMW Riders' **PARK2PARK** contest is to check off another item on our bucket lists, take us to some of the prettier areas of the state and to give us an incentive to spend more time in the saddle. The idea is to get on your bike, link up with some friends, ride to one of the beautiful Montana State Parks and soak up the ambience. You may want to load your camping gear since many of the parks have campgrounds. You will even get some off-pavement experience. While you are riding around the state keep your eyes out for the cafes that we feasted at the last two years for repeat visits. While the top three riders in two categories will receive recognition, the fun is in participating. To receive credit for visiting a park the rider must submit a photograph via email as described below:

**General:** Participants will be placed into one of two categories; the **Retired** category or **Worker** category. Retired is intended for those that are not working for any reason, all others are Workers. Participants will self-select the category in which they will compete. Both categories will have a first, second and third place award based on the number of parks visited. In addition, there will be a Grand Prize for the person(s) who has the greatest number of parks visited regardless of the category in which he/she competed.

T-shirts are available for participants. Cost of the T-shirt is \$15 and is optional. You may participate without buying a t-shirt.

### **Rules:**

Riders must register prior to starting the contest. To register for the Montana Riders' **PARK 2 PARK**, send an email to the Grahams

[gandcgraham@gmail.com](mailto:gandcgraham@gmail.com))

which should include your name, your chosen category (Worker or Retired) and T-shirt size if you plan to purchase one (payment instructions will be provided via email). Riders may register and begin the **PARK2PARK** ride at any time up until the end date of the competition.

You must be a member of the Montana BMW Riders in good standing (dues paid) prior to beginning the contest.

The contest runs from

**1 April until 1 November 2018.**

On the attached list of Parks you will find a nearby city/town/wide spot in the road and GPS coordinates. A good resource to use in planning is the Montana State Parks website (<http://stateparks.mt.gov/>), which has links to separate pages for each Park describing the park, open hours, etc. State roadmaps, of course, have the Parks marked as well. The attached list of Parks also contains information on whether it is necessary to travel on unpaved roads to reach a particular Park and our rough estimate of the miles to be so traveled. Also, if there is a Café 2 Café eatery near the Park, we have tried to note that in the list.

You must ride a motorcycle (two or three wheels) to the Parks.

Once you have registered, in order to get credit for each Park you visit, you must send a picture of the **Park entry sign** (readable) to the Grahams which should show, in addition to the sign, your **smiling face/faces** (selfies acceptable taken with or without a selfie stick) and, if the location allows, your bike/bikes. Include a time/date stamp on the pictures or indicate the time and date of the visit in the email. Size all your pictures so that they are **1MB** or less in size. Please limit the number of pictures to three – five per email. **No picture will be considered if received after November 9, 2018. We must be able to read the name of the Park in the picture.**

Those riding two-up should submit one picture showing both people; it will be considered a single entry.

The intended spirit of the contest ride is to inspire members to ride more often and to do so with old and new friends. The intent certainly is not to approach the event as an Iron Butt ride in which the rider tries to visit as many Parks as possible in as short of a time as possible. With that in mind no more than five Parks may count in the contest tally in a single day.

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46.72047/-113.57628

Keep in mind that each of these Parks have a purpose for existing, so take your time and explore it and the visitor's center if there is one.

The number of Parks visited, as proven by properly submitted pictures, will determine finishing spots. If there is a tie, then the riders will share the position. For example, if there are two riders in first place, they will share first and there will be no third place. If there are three riders in first place, then they will share first and there will be no second or third place finisher.

## Special Categories:

**Long Distance:** The rider who rides the furthest distance to a single Park. Distance will be determined from the rider's home to the Park via the route selected by Google Maps. If a rider wishes to be considered for this recognition, then the rider must include their home address and distance ridden in the email in which the picture is submitted and indicate that he/she is competing for the distance recognition.

**Senior Riders:** The rider age 70 or older with the most Parks. (Must reach age 70 on or before 1 November 2018)

**Four Corners Award:** This is for participants who travel to the four Parks that are in the corners of Montana. (Thompson Chain of Lakes State Park near Happy's Inn, Brush Lake State Park near Dagmar, Medicine Rocks State Park near Ekalaka and Bannack State Park near Dillon)

## 2018 PARK 2 PARK DESTINATIONS

1. **Ackley Lake** – 989 Ackley Lake Rd., Hobson  
46.95795/-109.94090
2. **Anaconda Smokestack** – 100 Smelter Rd., Anaconda  
46.12319/-112.93143
3. **Bannack** – 721 Bannack Rd., Dillon  
45.62212/-112.99868
4. **Beaverhead Rock** – 62 Beaverhead Rock Rd., Twin Bridges,  
45.38333/-112.46090
5. **Beavertail Hill** – 29895 Bonita Station Rd., Clinton
6. **Big Arm** – 28031 Big Arm State Park Rd., Big Arm  
47.80534/-114.31339
7. **Black Sandy** – 6563 Hauser Dam Rd., Helena (Exit 200 from I-15)  
46.74553/-111.88621
8. **Brush Lake** – 1733 Brush Lake Rd., Dagmar  
48.603001/-104.11300  
Near Wild West Café, Culbertson & Cousins Café, Plentywood.
9. **Chief Plenty Coups** – Edgar/Pryor Rd., Pryor  
45.427/-108.549
10. **Clark's Lookout** – 950 Lovers Leap Rd., Dillon  
45.235/-112.634
11. **Cooney** – 86 Lakeshore Rd., Roberts (Short unpaved stretch)  
45.44200/-109.20500
12. **Council Grove** – 11249 Mullan Rd., Missoula  
46.91302/-114.15477
13. **Elkhorn** – Elkhorn, Boulder - about 12 les unpaved  
46.27514/-111.94619  
Near Silver Saddle Café in Basin
14. **Finley Point** – 31453 S. Finley Point Rd., Finley Point  
47.75536/-114.08237
15. **First Peoples Buffalo Jump** – 342 Ulm/Vaughn Rd., Ulm  
47.497/-111.525
16. **Fish Creek** – 851 Rivulet Rd., Alberton – About 6 miles unpaved.  
46.99/-114.716
17. **Fort Owen** – 100 Stevensville River Trail, Stevensville (Owens Ranch Road).  
46.52035/-114.09688
18. **Frenchtown Pond** – 18401 Frenchtown Frontage Rd., Frenchtown.  
47.02443/-114.25776
19. **Giant Springs** – 4803 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls  
47.534/-111.227
20. **Granite Ghost Town** – Contract Mill Rd., Philipsburg – 3-4 miles unpaved.  
46.31689/-113.24644  
Near Sunshine Station
21. **Greycliff Prairie Dog Town** – Old Hwy. 10, Greycliff – I90 exit 377.  
45.761604/-109.789629
22. **Hell Creek** – 2456 Hell Creek Rd., Jordan – About 25 miles unpaved.  
47.615000/-106.886000

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23. **Lake Elmo** – 2300 Lake Elmo Dr., Billings  
45.83900/-108.47700
24. **Lake Mary Ronan** – 50623 Lake Mary Ronan Rd., Dayton  
47.92738/-114.38229
25. **Les Mason** – 2650 E. Lakeshore Dr., Whitefish  
48.45894/-114.37171
26. **Lewis and Clark Caverns** – 25 Lewis & Clark Caverns Rd.,  
Whitehall. 45.82289/-111.85082  
Near Willow Creek Café and Three  
Forks Café.
27. **Logan** – 77518 US Hwy. 2, Libby  
48.03302/-115.06627
28. **Lone Pine** – 300 Lone Pine Rd., Kalispell  
48.17404/-114.33754
29. **Lost Creek** – 5750 Lost Creek Rd., Anaconda – about 2 miles  
unpaved. 46.19778/-112.98247
30. **Madison Buffalo Jump** – 6990 Buffalo Jump Rd., South of  
Logan -7 unpaved. 45.79431/-111.47197
31. **Makoshika** – 1301 Snyder Ave., Glendive  
47.08972/-104.70633
32. **Medicine Rocks** – 1141 Hwy. 7, Ekalaka  
46.04550/-104.45839
33. **Milltown** – 1353 Deer Creek Rd., Missoula  
46.871289/-113.898157
34. **Missouri Headwater** – 1585 Trident Rd., Three Forks  
45.92013/-111.49989
35. **Painted Rocks** – 8809 West Fork Rd., Darby  
45.68128/-114.30100
36. **Pictograph Cave** – 3401 Coburn Rd., Billings  
45.73800/-108.43300
37. **Pirogue Island** – Just downriver from Miles City – 2 miles  
unpaved. 46.44181/-105.82253  
Near 600 Café in Miles City – River crossing to get to  
island.
38. **Placid Lake** – 5001 N. Placid Lake Rd., Seeley Lake – 3 miles  
unpaved. 47.11929/-113.50335 Near  
Trixies or Stray Bullet in Ovando or Lambkins in Lincoln
39. **Rosebud Battlefield** – Busby  
45.21944/-106.97829
40. **Salmon Lake** – 2329 Hwy. 83 N, Seeley Lake  
47.09442/-113.39791
41. **Sluice Box** – 38 Evans/Riceville Rd., Belt  
47.212/-110.935
42. **Smith River** –1005 Smith River Rd., White Sulphur Springs –  
11 mi. unpaved. 46.803/-111.182
43. **Spring Meadow Lake** – 2715 Country Club Dr., Helena  
46.61224/-112.07574
44. **Thompson Chain of Lakes** – 78854 Old US Hwy. 2 S, Libby  
48.029089/-115.051160
45. **Thompson Falls** – 2220 Blue Slide Rd., Thompson Falls  
47.61625/-115.38676
46. **Tongue River Reservoir** – 290 Campers Point, Decker  
45.09975/-106.79453
47. **Tower Rock** – 2325 Old Hwy. 91, Cascade  
47.189/-111.810
48. **Travelers Rest** – 6717 Hwy. 12 W, Lolo  
46.75306/-114.09007
49. **Wayfarers** – 8600 Mt Hwy. 35, Bigfork – Near Echo Lake  
Café. 48.0548/-114.07543
50. **West Shore** – 17768 Hwy. 93, Lakeside – near Tamarack  
Brewery. 47.949392/-114.1884523
51. **Whitefish Lake** – 1615 West Lakeshore Drive, Whitefish –  
Near Lula's. 48.4238/-114.37069
52. **Wild Horse Island** – Dayton - need a boat – Telephoto will  
do. 47.84715/-114.23458
53. **Yellow Bay** – 23861 Mt Hwy. 35, Bigfork  
47.87643/-114.02854

\* \* \*



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

Don't judge me  
for things I did a  
few seconds ago,  
I've changed since then.



## MILEAGE CONTEST



**Ok**, you tired of winter yet!!!??? After the first nice weeks of February, during which I thought we might come upon an early riding season, we're paying penance now! But the days are getting longer and there is increasing hope for spring and riding. We'll be doing our annual Montana BMW Riders mileage contest this year starting in April and ending in October. The specific dates will coincide with the BMWMOA dates and I'll publish them in the April newsletter in conjunction with the "rules" (of which there aren't many!). I'm giving consideration of awarding a cash (read Visa cash card) to the 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher this year in addition to a drawing from the rest of the "official" participants for an additional cash card award! It seems that cash is a "one-size-fits-all" gift and with the sport of motorcycling getting ever increasingly expensive, having a bit of cash in the pocket seems to help. So, the question is, why wouldn't you participate? Sending in your beginning and ending mileage within the official dates is all that's required, and you have an excellent possibility of walking away from the annual Christmas Party with some cash in your pocket (which for some of us would be a switch)! So... watch for the official announcement and official dates in the April newsletter and join us in making 2018 a "rewarding" year for riding!

*Larry Banister*

Mileage Coordinator, Montana BMW Riders.

## SAFETY CORNER



**A**s certified gear heads, I'm sure you've all at least heard of the development of Vehicle 2 Vehicle (V2) communication systems and certainly the effort underway to produce autonomous (self-driving) vehicles (AV). One of the underlying themes of both arenas is to cut down the number of vehicle accidents/fatalities. The implied (and probably accurate) weak point is the vehicle operator! We know from the statistics of motorcycle/motor vehicle interaction that 1) the accident is usually the fault of the vehicle driver, 2) the most common statement is "I never saw him", and 3) the motorcyclist is the one most often injured or killed.

One of the continuing concerns of the motorcycle industry and us, as riders, is the push toward both AV and V2V and how that will affect us on motorcycles. Bosch Mobility Solutions has announced a prototype V2V communication that it describes as a "digital protection shield." The company predicts it could prevent 1/3 of all motorcycle accidents. The new Bosch system uses ITS-G5 which is the public wireless local area network standard. This ensures that it can communicate with multiple types of existing and future V2V systems, not just other Bosch systems. With the Bosch system, parked and idling vehicles can also transmit data. They can present as much or more of a hazard as a moving vehicle, so this will likely be advantageous for both cars and bikers in preventing accidents. Their system will communicate with motorcyclists through the use of Bluetooth.

How about a video that will show you the concept? Log onto You tube and type in "EN Bosch Motorcycle-to-Vehicle Communication" or cut & paste <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXXlodi9g00>

Take a look. I think you'll find it interesting!!

Ride Safely

*Larry Banister*

Safety Mom, Montana BMW Riders



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## 1st Saturday Breakfast—March



L to R: Greg Hintz, Mike Wright, Lynn Springer, Sandy Knutsen, Karen Springer, Dave McCormack, Chuck Reaves, Dick French, and Don Deuel.

*"The 'First Saturday Montana BMW Riders' breakfast bunch and Montana Jack's in Missoula. We noted the daylight hours are increasing, so first rides of the season cannot be that far away!" Photo & Caption by Dick French*

### FOR SALE

Now that Annie Huddy has purchased a larger BMW (see her in the ad on the last page), she's putting her old ride up for sale. See it on Craig's List: <https://helena.craigslist.org/mcy/d/2011-bmw-f650gs/6510219174.html>

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# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

***The 2018 BMW RA Rally  
will be at the Tioga County Fairgrounds,  
Wellsboro, PA July 19-22.***

***Plan on Joining us!***



**Members SAVE \$10 on admission!  
Pre-registration saves \$15!**

A rider's rally of discovery and touring awaits you in the Pennsylvania mountains and back woods. Come to the 2018 BMW Riders Association International Rally in central Pennsylvania, home of some of the finest riding roads in North America. The roads in the Keystone State are extraordinary, accessible, well-paved and extremely rural. Pennsylvania hosts more small highways and byways than any other state in the country. Little towns and villages connected by both paved and unpaved roads, thousands of picturesque farmsteads, hills, mountains, and covered bridges pepper the landscape of motorcycling nirvana.

**Don't miss this great time and be sure and preregister at [WWW.BMWRA.ORG](http://WWW.BMWRA.ORG)**

Please be sure to tell your friends about the BMW Riders Association

George Nyktas, President

**If you have any questions, please contact us at (866) 924-7102 TOLL FREE  
Thank you!**

## **MONTANA BMW RIDER'S RIDES**

*By Dick French*

A ride close to Missoula that is perhaps overlooked is the Fish Creek road, 30 miles of gravel between US Highway 12 and Interstate 90. Larry Banister and I did the south to north ride late in 2016, a bit dusty. We turned on Fish Creek Road (also listed as NF 33) about one-half mile west of Lolo Hot Springs. The route follows Fish Creek Road from end-to-end with only a few other roads branching off – the route seemed logical, so GPS didn't seem to be a need. That was good since neither of us had a map let alone a navigation device.

If you are feeling touristy, the tallest pine tree in Montana (listed as 350 feet) is at about mile post 26 from the US 12 entrance. The turn -off is on the left and, though not well marked, is easy to spot as the road is close to Fish Creek.



***Listed as the tallest pine tree in Montana.***

If you are in the area, you can turn left (west) on the Southside Road toward Rivulet, about mile post 28, and follow that road for approximately 2.5 miles and check of No. 16, Fish Creek State Park on the 2018 Park 2 Park contest.

At the I-90 access, you can cross over to the frontage road (old US 10) head east over the Cry bridge and pick up I-90 East. River View, at the first exit to Alberton is a pretty fair rider nourishment establishment. US 10 from Alberton to the Nine Mile access to I-10 is a casual and traffic free ride.

If you are not quite ready to park for the day, turn left on the Remount Road to the US Forest Service Remount Station, a right there will eventually bring you to Huson, skipping I-10 for the entire ride.

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Chris Keyes' Corner

#### WARNING: 40,000 MOTORCYCLISTS ARE COMING



Prior to my sabbatical in Guatemala in 2016, I signed up for email travel advisories from the U.S. State Department. These are periodic warnings to American citizens abroad about areas to avoid. An advisory might warn of a rash of crime, a volcanic eruption, a protest blocking a highway, that sort of thing – in other words, normal Guatemala stuff. Upon returning to Montana, I never took myself off that State Department advisory email list, so I still receive an occasional advisory from them. It's kind of a fun way to keep up on 'current events' down there. But last month I received an advisory that really grabbed my attention:

*The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala has received a report that on Saturday, February 3rd starting from 7:00 a.m., approximately 40,000 motorcyclists, collectively known as Caravana del Zorro, will be departing from Zone 1 towards Esquipulas. They will be traveling northbound on CA-9 towards Rio Hondo, Zacapa (Km 136). From there, they will head to Esquipulas. Traffic conditions are expected to be slow due to congestion. There will reportedly be an excessive number of motorcyclists on the road, thus increasing the possibility of traffic accidents.*

This warning inspired in me a few reflections. They are best read in the voice of television commentator Andy Rooney (and yes, according to this club's demographics, you know who Andy Rooney is):

Exactly what number qualifies as "an excessive number of motorcyclists"? Probably most of us can agree that 40,000 is a hell of a lot. I don't know about excessive though. Wouldn't that depend on which motorcyclist you ask? The solo rider probably chafes at 2. As for me, 40,000 mobile motorcyclists are more intriguing than alarming, and not something I necessarily want to avoid.

A 7:00 am start time? What sort of hell-raising outlaw rebel mob is this Caravana del Zorro?! How does one find so many motorcyclists promptly prepared in a ride-ready state at 7:00 a.m.?

A fact of life along Guatemala highways is that you're at constant risk of being flattened by anything that moves. Are motorcycles your greatest concern? Among road threats, nothing is more dangerous than the diesel-belching chicken buses: aged American school buses that have been repurposed as public transportation, hot-rodged to hurtle an overcapacity of people and cargo at inadvisable speeds on worn springs and bald tires, and colorfully decorated to distract any passenger from the morbid yet realistic notion that the contraption is as likely to deliver you to the afterlife as to your posted destination. Are you more concerned by that roving menace, or a fleet of buzzy single cylinder motorbikes?

The most profound threat here may be to environmental quality. Worth noting is the fact that public restrooms in Guatemala are scarce. Assuming an average rider dispenses 1 pint of fluid waste, we are talking about 5,000 gallons of contaminant inflicted upon the route's soils and waterways. Let's not even tabulate Numero Dos.

Upon reflection, I'm not sure the public along the route needs to worry excessively about this event. But aren't you glad you're not a resident of Esquipulas? Those poor folks are probably due for an interesting evening.

I'm sure the State Department official who wrote this advisory felt he was dutifully cautioning Americans to gird themselves against this calamity. But that wasn't my reaction. It was closer to: Dammit, wish I was in Guatemala! I'd like nothing more than to hop on a 200cc bike, boot a feral gutter dog out of the way, and join the Caravana del Zorro. Add one more to the bucket list!

\* \* \*

#### **Sayings worth remembering:**

*Life is a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure.*

*By Helen Keller*



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

(Continued from Prez Corner, Page 1)

offer more scholarships or work off of the 'first come first' serve premise for that \$350.00.

Sorry if that seems wishy washy, but while wanting to offer a benefit for members, we don't want to go broke either.

This scholarship program in conjunction with the \$250.00 BMW-MOA Paul B. scholarship Chris Keyes mentioned in last month's newsletter, will make rider improvement classes more affordable. See BMW-MOA's website regarding this Paul B. scholarship program.

- Ok, things coming up in our area include the Inland Northwest Motorcycle show March 9-11 in Spokane.
- In May, BMW-MOA is having a regional ride-in get-together in Coeur D'Alene. See this link if you want to get in some riding outside the area but not too far outside. It's also a great chance to rub shoulders with other riders of the mark that are like minded...or not. <http://www.bmwmoa.org/event/eventidaho18>
- It's a good time to sign up early for some rallies, not only to register but to get a hotel reservation. I'm specifically thinking of the MOA rally in Des Moines, Iowa in July and the Chief Joseph Rally in John Day, Oregon June 29-July 1.

That's about it from me. We are still working on how to set up a list with member's contact info that is accessible to all members. Keep an eye out for that. If you need a list soon, let me or Chris Keyes know, and we'll help you get connected to other members you want to be in contact with for riding. Again, this information will only be given to other paid up members of the club. We are past the March 1st deadline and I have not heard from anyone, so if you do not want this contact information given out to other members you must contact me before the list is initiated around March 15.

Well, here's to hoping we're at the end of a heck of a winter. Hope to see you for breakfast this Saturday or at the Pressbox March 18<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend.

Happy Trails till then!!

*Chuck*

\* \* \*

## More...MONTANA BMW RIDER'S RIDES

*By Dick French*

Arlee to Salmon Lake on US 83 is about 40 miles of unpaved (gravel) road. This is a good one to have an active GPS device. Roads by the same or similar names, most well-travelled and all seem to be headed in the right direction provide a lot of choices

along the way. Fortunately, most reconnect and lead to Placid Lake, and Placid Lake State Park (Park 2 Park contest?).

Starting at Jocko Road about one-half mile south of Arlee and head east will tie you into Jocko Canyon Road. At about 12 miles in, a lesser used road branches right, which appears to also be named "Jocko Canyon Road." Bear to the left, also Jocko Canyon Road, but more traveled and a better road. This will eventually become Jocko Road. You are on the correct road if you pass by Lower Jocko Lake, Black Lake and Upper Jocko Lake, about 23 miles from the start.



*A pause at Lower Jocko Lake while the Ride Master confirms our location.*

After leaving the lakes, the road will eventually come to a fork with both roads named "N. Placid Lake Road". Take your pick – both meet in a few miles.

*Ride Master says, "Where are we?"*



*Deputy Ride Master says, "Right here."*



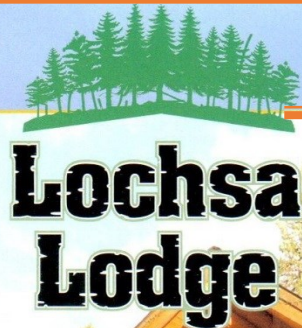
About a mile beyond the merging of the N. Placid Lake Roads, Placid Creek Road branches off to the left and will again cross N. Placid Lake Road, now identified as Road 68. This road passes through a residential area along Placid Lake and leads to the park. Otherwise, the Placid Creek Road which skirts the residential area seems to be the better choice. This road meets US 83 in about five miles, a mile north of Salmon Lake.

Although a bit confusing this is a good ride with miles of nice mountain scenery.

\* \* \*

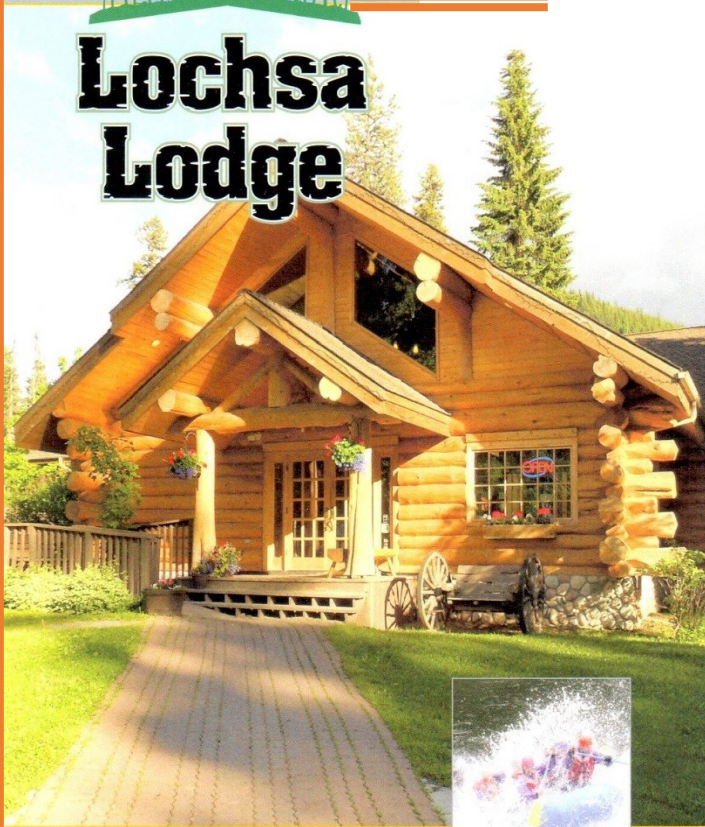


# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER



## Lochsa Lodge

POWELL, IDAHO



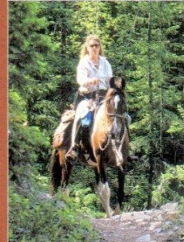
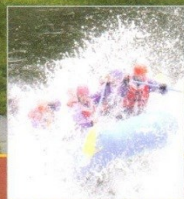
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When you go, tell them you saw their ad in the MT BMW Riders **MARCH** newsletter.



**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.