

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

BMW Motorcycle Club  
Montana BMW Riders



CLUB CHARTER  
MEMBERSHIPS :

BMWMOA #155

BMW RA #072

AMA #6830

**NEXT MEETING**

**PHILIPSBURG**

**SUNSHINE STATION**

**MAY 20**

**SUNDAY, 1:00 PM**

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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**T**here's been a lot of water under the bridge and a lot of buds on the trees since I last did this column. All I can say is between the change in the weather and our Park 2 Park contest, we have a lot of reasons to ride this spring.

Thanks once again to Carol and Gary Graham for organizing the State Parks contest. I've talked to several riders who are using it as a reason to burn rubber off their tires. And it has been a hoot finding these unique gems, some tucked away off the mainstream, others right off the highway. But mainly it gives a reason to ride and places to ride to. It may take a little organizational effort, but that actually adds to the fun. A bonus with the Park 2 Park is getting to know how your bike handles; like it's turning radius in parking lots with gravel; how far it leans over in soft earth before going over; your bike's real time abilities traversing snow or not; tire grip; how to find your heated grips without looking down; is your tank bag big enough this year; which saddlebag to keep your *Sven Saw* in; and many other ergonomically important ways of getting to know your bike.

We have several events coming up in May. First Saturday breakfast is May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Wagon Wheel in Drummond at 9:30 am. The Huddy Tech Days is the weekend of May 18-20<sup>th</sup> in Helena. See details in this newsletter. Then in conjunction with the tech session, our monthly ride is Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> in Philipsburg at the Sunshine Station at 1:00 pm. Also put June 28<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our annual *Dinner Bell* ride (that's Gold Creek, MT, just east of Drummond). Dinner there is served at 6:00 PM. Best to arrive by 5:30. This is one of the longest days of the year, so you should

have plenty of light to get back home. Please RSVP me so I know how many seats to reserve. They fill up quickly.

Now's the time to check the rally schedule in the newsletter, as this is the beginning of rallies far and wide. The two closest coming up are Red Rock Rendezvous in Panguitch, Utah June 14-15 and Chief Joseph Rally in John Day, Oregon the weekend of June 29-July 1.

Thanks to succumbing to the flu, I did not make the April meeting in Lincoln. The turnout as usual for Lincoln was excellent with 23 members attending. Those attending were from Helena, Missoula, Townsend, Kalispell, Hamilton, Florence, Victor, and Lolo. 13 rode and the late bloomers stayed in cages. Light rain/mist in the morning but beautiful 50 degree weather for the rides home.

Other notes of interest...There will be one Advanced Rider MSF class close by, in Helena, on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise there are two classes in Billings. See the MSF link on our website. And you can take advantage of our scholarship program to lessen the cost of the class.

Don't forget Chris Keyes has organized a dual sport ride the last weekend of July, July 28<sup>th</sup>, near Thompson Falls. This includes a cabin that sleeps 11 and has 2 bathrooms!

Wishing you a fun filled spring and lots of good riding for the summer. Hope to see you at the Huddy Outpost May 19<sup>th</sup> and Philipsburg on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend.

***Happy Trails till then!!***

***Chuck***

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

MUSINGS FROM CHRIS

BMWMOA Corner



## Big Sky Ramblings

Ah, riding the Lochsa! Brilliant flashes of sunlight between tall cedars, illuminating the dark understory and dappling the pavement beneath your wheels. The accompanying river, surging ahead in full throat. The endless, perfect curves. And this year – a somber, dead-eyed highway worker, flagging you to a stop. The staggering silence of stilled vehicles. Frequent glances at the dash clock, as time – like you – comes to a standstill.

That's what motorcyclists should expect on U.S. Route 12 this summer, as the Idaho Transportation Department initiates bridge replacements and 50 miles of overdue road resurfacing from the Montana state line to Kooskia. The \$17 million construction effort may produce delays of two hours or more, and could last until October. Montana motorcyclists will encounter their share starting at Lolo Pass, where road crews will be repaving 23 miles to the Warm Springs Pack Bridge at milepost 151.4. Continuing further west, repaving will occur in a 27-mile stretch from Saddle Camp Road (milepost 140.7) to Tumble Creek (milepost 113.7). Additionally, both the 66-year-old Fish Creek Bridge (milepost 120) and 69-year-old Maggie Creek Bridge (milepost 76.8) will undergo replacement. In late April I traveled the route from Kooskia to Missoula, but construction had just started on one bridge, and the wait was minimal.

How bad will it get? According to a spokeswoman for the ITD, "If you don't have to be there, maybe this isn't the summer to come see the Lochsa." You can bet that's not exactly music to the ears of the roadway's visitor services businesses that depend mightily on summer highway traffic and tourists. Contractors will do their best to keep delays to less than 15 minutes, but given the highway's scant turnouts and relatively few passing zones, riders will likely find themselves behind some slow, snaking lines this summer.

*CHRIS*



BMWMOA Regional Coordinator

Tom Moe

As the regional coordinator I thought it would be helpful to list some upcoming and fun events that BMWMOA and others are putting on within a reasonable distance of our chartered MOA club.

**MOA Getaway Coeur d'Alene – 05/11/2018 to 05/13/2018**

Location: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Contact: Coeur d'Alene Resort (855) 703-4648

There's something magical about Lake Coeur d'Alene that's hard to define, but it begins with spectacular Idaho sunsets, the glowing lights of downtown Coeur d'Alene reflecting across its waters and the wonderful roads.

**MOA Getaway Grand Targhee – 06/15/2018 to 06/17/2018**

Location: Alta, Wyoming

Contact: Grand Targhee Resort – [info@grandtarghee.com](mailto:info@grandtarghee.com)  
(307) 353-2300

Your BMW MOA has another great weekend adventure coming up at the Grand Targhee Resort in Alta, Wyoming. Situated between the Grand Teton National Park to the east and Yellowstone National Park to the north your basecamp for the weekend is perfectly located to let you explore the natural wonders in this region. Attendees may choose to take a complimentary scenic chairlift ride where they will ride the Dreamcatcher chairlift to the 9,862 ft. summit of Fred's Mountain and enjoy unsurpassed views of the Teton Range and surrounding states of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. Upon your arrival at the top of the mountain, you may choose to enjoy a visit with our Nature Center staff, enjoy a leisurely walk to the overlook. The more ambitious may hike back down the Banrock Trail to the base area, or enjoy the views as you ride back down the chairlift. If horsepower of a different kind is calling you, check out Haviland's Western Horseback Riding Adventures. Jump to it with a session of Bungee Trampoline or test your skills on the climbing wall. Whatever you decide, this Getaway will not disappoint.

The ride from Montana has many possibilities and scenic routes.

**BMW MOA International Rally – 07/12/2018 to 07/15/2018**

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Contact: Brain Hilton [2018rallychair@bmwmoa.org](mailto:2018rallychair@bmwmoa.org)

# ***MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER***

A beautiful rally site, wonderfully scenic roads and awesome area attractions welcome rally goers at the 46<sup>th</sup> annual BMW MOA International Rally this summer in Des Moines, Iowa. We look forward to seeing you there.

**MOA Getaway Copper Mountain - 08/24/2018 to 08/26/2018**

Location Copper Mountain, Colorado

Contact: Copper Mountain Resort (888) 760-7561

Come to colorful Colorado to ride some of America's most breathtaking stretches of the Rock Mountains. For some, these spectacular mountain passes and canyons represent motorcycling nirvana. This should be a beautiful late summer ride and in my experience one of the nicest times of year to be in the Rocky Mountains.

Feel free to contact me at [tom.moe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tom.moe@sbcglobal.net) or 406-813-8388. I look forward to hearing from you. Let's get riding.

*Tom Moe*

## WRIGHT INSURANCE AGENCY

2801 So. Russell, Suite 13 Missoula, MT 59801

(406) 728-6333

**HOLLY SILK**

**BUDDY COWART**

**HANNAH LEPIANE**

HOME, LIFE, COMMERCIAL, AUTO,

MOTORCYCLE

[wrightinsurance1@gmail.com](mailto:wrightinsurance1@gmail.com)

**We're on the Web:**

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

## **2018 RIDES AND RALLIES**

<b>June 11-15</b>	<b>Sasquatch Dual Sport &amp; GPS Adventure Tour in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon</b>
<b>June 14-15</b>	<b>Red Rocks Rendezvous in Panguitch, UT</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 14-15</b>	<b>Montana Ride For Hope, Lewistown, MT</b>
<b>July 17-19</b>	<b>Cascade County Rendezvous, Republic, WA</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 28-30</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>August 3-12</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>

# 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.

**PRESIDENT: CHUCK REAVES**

241 University, Missoula, MT 59801

Email: reavesmt@msn.com

**VICE PRESIDENT: ED FIELD**

Email: edfield924@gmail.com

**SECRETARY/TREASURER: CHRIS KEYES**

Email: crkeyes@icloud.com

**WEB MASTER: MIKE WRIGHT**

Email: mikewinmt@gmail.com

**MILEAGE CONTEST COORDINATOR: LARRY BANISTER**

Email: beemermt@msn.com

**FACEBOOK MASTER: TERRY KAY**

Email: tmky66@yahoo.com

**CLUB HISTORIAN & PAST PRESIDENT: KIM LEMKE**

Email: vroom65@juno.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR: DAVE MCCORMACK**

Email: dhmcc@aol.com

**ROVING REPORTER: DICK FRENCH**

Email: r\_g\_french@msn.com

**PARK2PARK CONTEST CHIEFS GARY & CAROL GRAHAM**

Email: gandcgraham@gmail.com

**BMWMOA—REGIONAL COORDINATOR: TOM MOE**

Email: Tom.moe@sbcglobal.net

**CLASSIFIED ADS FOR THE WEBSITE: MIKE WRIGHT**

Email: mikewinmt@gmail.com

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

## Musings From Dick French



I have to tell a story on myself.

Not only are my joints getting a bit stiff, my inseam is modest - often referred to as short - making the normally acceptable mounting and dismounting an ungraceful maneuver. At the Helena check point of last year's Three Flags Rally, I notices a grandmotherly lady in the parking lot circling a full dress Harley Davidson. I doubt she would have tipped the scales to 125 pounds. It was a cold and blustery day, so after suiting up, she left the Harley on its side stand, hit the starter button, stepped on the foot peg on the high side, rotated that hog to riding position and did a controlled and slow U-turn in the parking lot, and road off to continue the run to Canada.

Since then, I mount and dismount standing on my foot pegs, without a tinge embarrassment.

*Dick*

## Editor's Corner



Not too long ago, Ken Senn and I headed out to the Lincoln meeting in April. Rainy and cloudy, it didn't deter us from riding to the meeting. We met in Stevensville early enough to make the meeting time and then some. About Lolo, I noticed I was a little low on gas for the trip. The Spyder is notorious for overestimating gallons left, so I thought Lolo would be a great place to stop, top up and maybe put on rain suits.

Patting my left chest jacket pocket, I became aware that I had left my wallet home in a different jacket (last minute decision to take "that one"). Too far into the ride to turn back...I assessed my chances of an accident or a speeding ticket and realized that I had registration and insurance papers already aboard...so my only danger was being interrupted by a law enforcement official. Ken offered to cover my expenses to Lincoln and back (for which I am grateful), so I proceeded, being careful to stay under the speed limit.

**Here's the moral of this story...**My top case now contains a rarely used credit card, a copy of my license, and a couple of \$20's. I had never encountered the problem before and realized that I do a lot of solo riding and not having a wallet could ruin a trip.

*Dave*

**We're on Facebook Too:  
MONTANA BMW Riders**

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## 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
✓ Mar	18	Missoula	The Press Box	Sun	1 PM
✓ Apr	15	Lincoln	Lambkins	Sun	1 PM
May	18-20	Helena	Huddy's Tech Days	F,S,S	1 PM
May	20	Philipsburg	Sunshine Station	Sun	1 PM
Jun	16	Big Fork	Echo Lake Cafe	Sat	1 PM
Jul	21	Choteau	Log Cabin	Sat	1 PM
Aug	19	Wisdom	The Crossings	Sun	1 PM
Sep	15	Three Forks	Sacajawea Inn	Sat	1 PM
Oct	21	Ovando	Trixi's	Sun	1 PM
Nov	18	Drummond	Wagon Wheel	Sun	1 PM
Dec	8	Missoula	Big Sky Motorsports	Sat	5:30 PM

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 riders... and be open both Saturday and/or Sunday. Send your suggestions to Chuck Reaves, Chris Keyes or Ed Field.

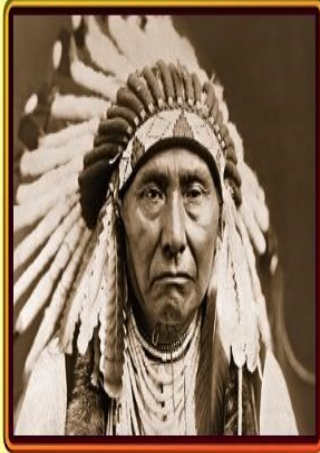
All our meetings always begin at 1:00 p.m. so that we don't push local restaurant patrons out and create an issue for the staff. We always call ahead and confirm we are coming. Therefore, we encourage members not to request seating until 1:00 p.m.

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## BMW Riders of Oregon 2018 Chief Joseph Rally

Grant County Fairgrounds - John Day, Oregon

BMW  
O  
t  
o  
r  
r  
a  
d



BMW  
O  
t  
o  
r  
r  
a  
d

June 29, 30 & July 1

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: [BMWRO.ORG](http://BMWRO.ORG)

Food / Camping / Guided Rides / Beer Garden



Heard there was a recall of the Ducati Pangiale.  
No more news than that at this time.

### MILEAGE CORNER



Mileage Faithful,

Greetings from the official "Mileage Meister". As you're reading this in the May newsletter, the deadline for "official entries" (May 1) has passed. Here are the names of the official contestants in our 2018 Montana BMW Riders Mileage Contest: **Gary Armstrong, Larry Banister, Brian Campbell, John DiBari, Dick French, Gary Graham, Carol Graham, Annie Huddy, Kevin Huddy, Chris Keyes, Jim Krausch, Kim Lemke, Dave McCormack, Mike Meredith, Thomas Moe, Chuck Reaves, Ken Senn and John Webster.** This is an excellent representation and the run for the year end cash prizes is underway! Thanks to all who made the cut, I'm looking forward to seeing you on the highways and/or dirt roads this year.

By the way, our very own Annie Huddy makes it to the "big time" this month in the BMWMOA magazine! She broke the 100,000 mile award barrier and in doing so, got a nice "bio" article which appears on page 73! Just goes to show that if you participate in our Montana BMW Riders mileage contest, who knows what your future may hold. Congrats Annie!

*Larry Banister*

Mileage Coordinator-Montana BMW Riders

*ENJOY THE RIDE*

stay vibrant

Custom hearing protection is great for riding or shooting- they allow you to hear and stay safe and still protect your hearing (even if you wear hearing aids!).

[www.vibranthearing.com](http://www.vibranthearing.com)  
406-549-1951

15% OFF  
CUSTOM  
HEARING  
PROTECTION

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## FIFTH ANNUAL TECH DAY AT THE OUTPOST

Our Fifth Annual Tech Day will be held Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Huddy's Outpost located in the Helena area.

This is an opportunity to 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 lift, air-compressor, tire-changer, carb/throttle body synching meters, GS911 code reader and an assortment of other common tools. You provide the tires, oil, filters, plugs and other consumables. If you are having your tires shipped you may have them shipped directly to the Outpost or bring them with you. Free disposal of oil and filters will be provided but used tires must be taken by the owner. If you are new to working on your bike, then there will be others there to assist; including with changing tires. If you are an experienced wrench then we need your expertise as well.

Starts at 9 a.m. and runs until whenever on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. There are some cots and other places to sleep or camp for those that would like to arrive in the afternoon of Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and/or stay Saturday night May 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a BBQ on Saturday afternoon and other sustenance for those who are arriving early or staying longer. BYOB.

The Outpost is NW of Helena and located approximately seven miles west of I-15 (Exit 200) and approximately 23 miles east of Flesher Pass on Lincoln Road (HWY 279). The address is 6750 Silver Fox Court. Silver Fox Court is south off of Lincoln Road and the Outpost is the last house on the right. Phone: 406 438-6776. (46°43'53.4"N 112°09'23.7"W)

Please RSVP to Kevin Huddy at [huddykl@gmail.com](mailto:huddykl@gmail.com) no later than 11 May. Include your anticipated arrival and departure dates in your RSVP. For more information or to arrange tire delivery you can email Kevin.

## Felicitations Fellow Farkle Fanatics and Future Farklers...



I have been asked to document the winter Farkle Fest that occurred post purchase of the 2017 BMW 1200 GS. Just to clarify, while many lamented the fact that the bike sat in the shop for 4 months unriden, it was sat upon frequently. Also I would like to point out that it WAS NOT MY FAULT that winter was so long, but I do understand the superstition. I was even beginning to doubt that Spring would ever arrive. However, to do the job right, you really do need the down time and it kept my mechanic busy, since he had already worked on everything else including the lawn mower.

So the farkeling began on or around December 3<sup>rd</sup> at roughly midnight. It was a long drive back to Helena, so there was plenty of time for conversation. Amazon is an amazing thing. A mere thought and Voila, the item appears. I am now on a first name basis with my UPS driver as well as my FedEx driver, both know to deliver to the shop door not the house. Unfortunately, the Visa bill arrives at the house. I tell you this just as a cautionary re-



minder. My mechanic will tell you that after many futile attempts (and 43 years of marriage) of trying various techniques such as "she is already mad, how much angrier can she get", or the Bull through technique "just get whatever and deal with the fallout", he finally realized I was a sucker for "it's a safety issue". I have no idea how that applies to Ping golf clubs, but it worked. Having been very well trained by the Master, it was now my turn to use that excuse.

So in the name of safety Front and Rear fender extenders have been added. Rox Risers were installed to bring the handle bars up and back a few inches. The limiting factor here is the braking cable and a few other things, so we paid close attention to the turning radius of the handlebar.

AltRider upper and lower crash bars were installed and

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

they seem a bit more substantial than bars that are installed on the Mechanics' GSA. There was a bash plate already installed on the bike, but if you have not yet added one, seriously consider it, along with a radiator protector. Easy and quick to install. The headlight unit received protection in the form of AltRiders headlight guard which bolted right on and took me less than five minutes.

One more AltRider product added was the pillion luggage rack, this fits my soft-sided tailbag perfectly.

Jesse Bags were ordered and received in less than a week. Those guys are fast! I love the look of the panniers, top opening so easy to stuff and re-

move things. The cases give added leg protection in the event you run out of Real Estate when you put your foot down. Just sayin.



Headlight protectors

Pivot Pegs added for the flexibility it gives me on long rides, or on dirt/gravel so I can stand up but still easily reach the foot brake. A side-stand extender added to the foot of the side stand makes me feel like the bike is more stable and won't sink into the ground.

Lighting was actually a safety concern, so Hyperlites were added to the rear to emphasize braking. Initially Denali lights were added to the front, but were swapped with a set of Rigid lights from my GS 800. This was done when the Hex ezCan was added (no relays, no fuse block) but some soldering required, which was not hard just awkward. For some reason the Denali lights do not play well with the Hex ezCan. The Hex ezCan is from a company of engineers who ride in South Africa, Ted Porter is the US distributor. You will need to hook up the ezCan to a computer and spend some time playing with all of the options. Also my heated gear is now plugged into the ezCan as is the new Denali SoundBomb horn. For safety sake I caution you here. Wear earplugs when you test the horn!

Another safety feature added were the Givi hand guard extenders; these attach at the top of the brush guards and give you a bit more protection on the back of your hands. Plus they are a neat "smoke" see through color.

I often wonder why BMW puts seats on their motorcycles. Seems everyone I know immediately removes them and puts on a customized seat. Read padding here.

I wanted to ride the bike first before I replaced the seat just to get a feel for the height and weight of the bike. After the 600 mile check-up I knew I would be ordering a new Corbin seat. On previous bikes that has been my seat of choice. Yes, there are other options out there. Yes, they

are more expensive. Yes, you have to send in your seat pan to those other seat builders. With Corbin you do not, so I was able to ride while waiting for the new seat, but used my Alaska Leather sheep skin pad for comfort and warmth. As my Mechanic says, "why do you need a Day-long seat when you have a three hour bladder?"

And I have to admit, the Corbin website was a breeze to use, and even though they said 4-6 weeks for the seat, I received it via my trusty Fed EX driver in just three weeks. Having just ridden a bit over 500 miles this past weekend on the Park 2 Park gathering photos of parks for the annual contest, I couldn't be happier with it!



Running lights.

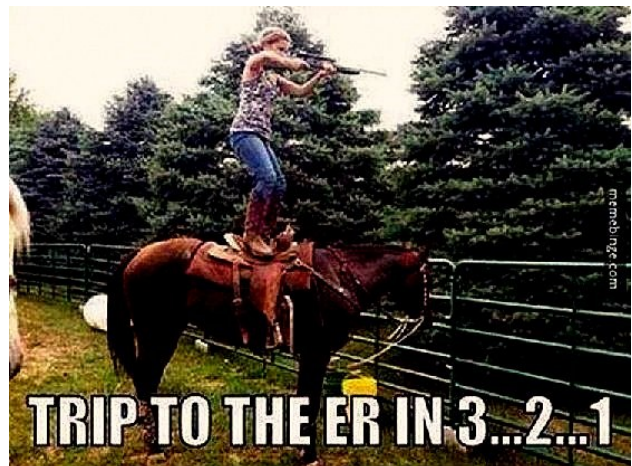
My BMW tank bag was purchased from Big Sky BMW and is working out quite well, but I did add a small bungee across the top for a place to stick gloves so they don't blow off at fuel stops.

Once I get the hang of this Navigator VI GPS I may have to add a radar detector. Hmmmm. Farkling never ends. If you need any more information on when, or how, or where to start the Farkle process stop by the Tech Day for a visit and food on Saturday May 19, or the next meeting in Phillipsburg on Sunday 20 May.

My favorite farkle is a hand crafted GPS sunshade. My Mechanic used a thin flexible cutting board purchased from IKEA, bent it into the correct shape, heat molded it, and attached Velcro. It works so well, doesn't flop around and is to die for. It was the perfect anniversary gift!

A friend of mine said, "There are seven days in a week; SOMEDAY is NOT one of them. Get out and RIDE!"

*Annie Huddy*





# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## **Park 2 Park**

Hey there intrepid Park finders!

It is time to do some clarifying so as not to cause you all of the frustration that could occur in finding the parks. I guess in creating a new challenge the motto is "live and learn".

First, as to the parks being open, my last email said 'this' week. Actually it is this coming week. I am told by park officials that opening is usually scheduled around May 1 but it may vary a little from park to park.

Second, as to Wild Horse Island, a long distance shot is all that is expected given the alternative is to rent a boat.

Third, Fish Creek between Alberton and Superior is a challenge. We searched around and found only one small sign on Fish Creek proper. It looks from google earth like it might be on Rock Creek in reality. The Park is over 5000 acres in size and is primitive so apparently there is no central campground or other improvement.

The one sign we found was reached by following the paved Fish Creek road 2.5 miles from the freeway to where the pavement runs out. At that point there is a 'y' with one branch going to Fish Creek and the other to Rivulet. About .2 of a mile down the right or Rivulet branch of the road (I think that is FR 344) just before the bridge across Fish Creek is a 8.5" X 11" sign with the Parks logo on it. The bottom line is that if you get to Fish Creek you get credit! By the way, we did what Antje did and went up the gravel portion Fish Creek Road about three miles further and came to the Big Pine Campground which is named after a huge ponderosa. It is worth seeing.

If any of you run into situations where the signage is lacking or other problems prevent getting to the park, let us know and we can get the word out.

There are about 7 riders with right around 10 parks to their credit. Keep it up!!

*Gary & Carol*



**I** wanted to let you know that the riding season began in January. I was able to get out for a ride in both January and February, and of course, March. Attached is a photo of my ride to central Washington last week.

That is the Grand Coulee dam in the background. Two days of riding, temps from the high 30s to low 70s, 614 total miles.

John DiBari

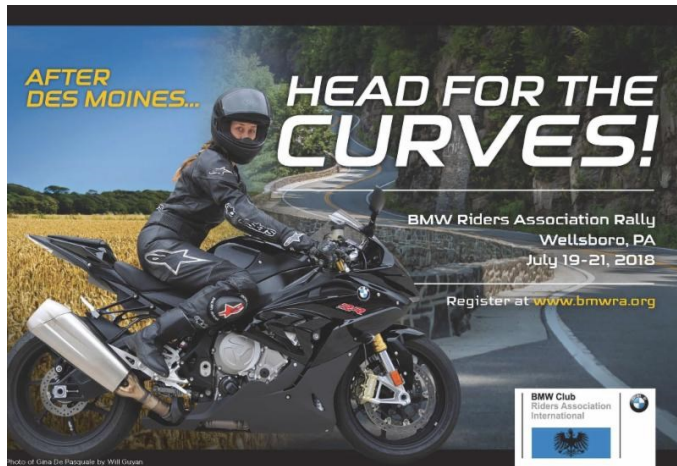
Ed. Note: John was responding to my note in April's announcement that no one was riding because of the winter extending so far into spring. He sent along this picture with his comment above.

Way to go, John!!

# 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!

***BMW RA Rally additional info...***

*This rally will be unique. No matter what the weather will be, the surrounding area will be rideable all day long with great views and vistas. A few miles from the BMWRA Rally resides the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, where the beautiful Pine Creek has carved its way down towards the New Jersey Shore. Route 414 is a great Scenic Byway heading south to the famous Susquehanna River. Snaking throughout the state are unpaved roads to challenge any GS rider. Thrill seekers can traverse over 80 miles of hard-packed dirt, corners, hills and steep descents in the area.*

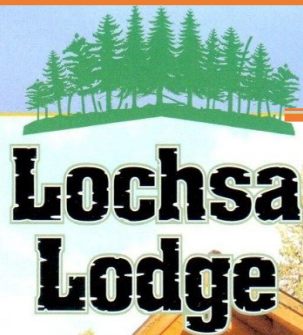
*There are one-lane and two-lane paved roads to reservoirs, state parks, picnic areas, rivers, brooks and creeks. Hike wilderness with waterfalls at Ricketts Glenn, find the bridge to nowhere, or go to the covered bridge and country store at Forkston. Rent horses and descend into the Canyon on four legs. Take in Horseshoe curve, find out where the first oil was discovered in America, go to the railroad town of Renovo, or visit the history of the Zip-po lighter. Once you ride the Pennsylvania Endless Mountains, you will want to return again!*

*Other fun activities include taking a splash in the Pine Creek, visiting the Waterville general store, and walking the gas-lighted streets of Wellsboro at night. Look forward to the craft brews at the Brewery in St Mary's, ride to the great Lumber Museum, tour to the BMW dealers near State College or in Port Clinton, or visit Bill's Ol' Bike Barn in Bloomsburg. There are unending possibilities for our great members and guests.*

*The rally's entertainment will comprise of great bands from Pennsylvania that will take you back in time to a place of fun and excitement.*

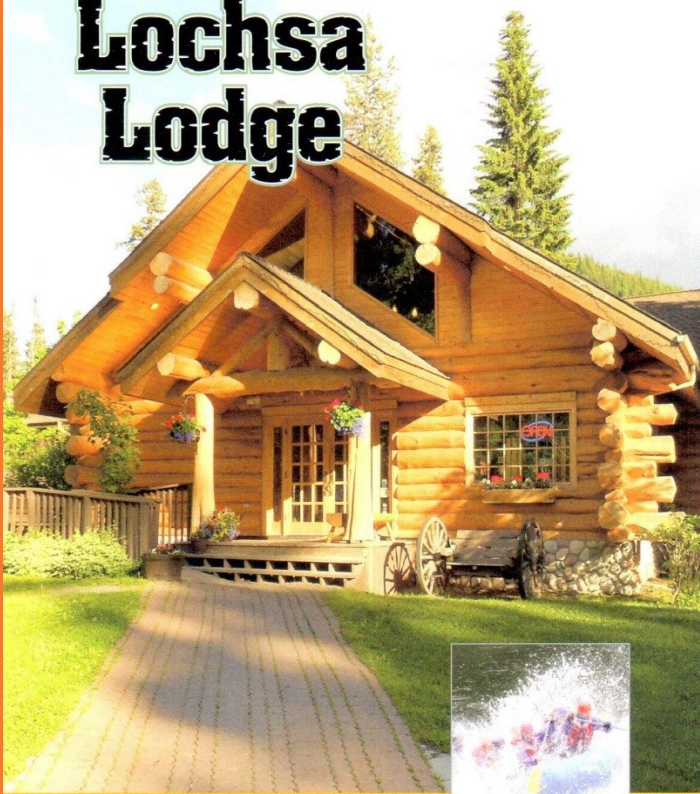
*Do not expect to see flat roads, corn fields that go forever, interstates that drone on endlessly, traffic, or bad vibes. Expect only great riding, great people, and a fun rally! There will be plenty of room for you and your friends!*

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER



## Lochsa Lodge

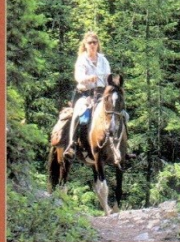
POWELL IDAHO



### Four-Season Fun in the Heart of Wild Idaho!

- Hunting & Fishing
- Skiing & Snowshoeing
  - Snowmobiling
- White-water Rafting & Kayaking
- Hiking & Camping
- Summer Trail Rides

LOCHSALODGE.COM



OPEN 365 DAYS A YEAR

(406) 942-3405



BIG SKY MOTORSPORTS



Quality products from BMW, KTM and Kawasaki and great service set Big Sky Motorsports apart from other dealers. 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 **MAY** 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. This picture is of her first ride this last month.

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## WHERE ARE WE?

By Dick French

Eyes in the sky!! Usually this refers to a small single-engine high-winged aircraft that made a U-turn over the freeway to fly in the direction of my travel. Of course, I am unique in this experience among the readers of this newsletter! But in this case, it is that ever-present eye that seems to know where we are on our smart phone map, except when we seem to need it the most – that intersection of several Winnebago roads far from any cell tower – and all roads look equally logical. Or, the NF road designation on the Forest Service map doesn't match any of the road sign numbers, if any, on the available road options. Our smart phone to the rescue. On most recent model smartphones, a red dot will appear indicating your location, however the map may appear as a blur sufficient to render the entire data base useless.

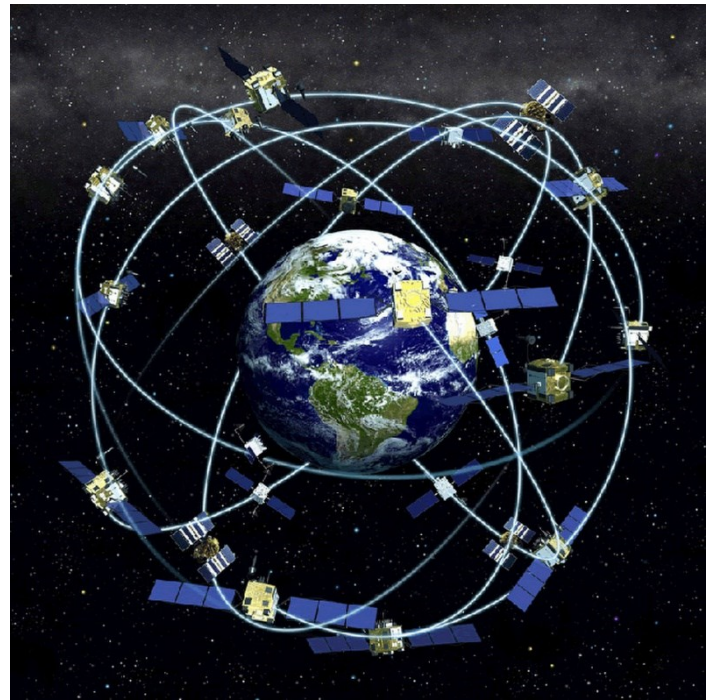
Larry Banister and I spent long hours in the City Brew Coffee shop this winter trying to hone our meager knowledge of navigation with the current electronic technology. After all, paper maps are so 'yesterday' as our grandkids tell us. It is even a possibility our grandkids have never held a paper map in their hands.

But we are moderately modern, yes, we have 'recent' smartphones, that at our knowledge level make and receive phone calls. As it turns out, most current smart phones have "map" applications, and those of you who are proficient, use them to find your way to a camp ground or motel in your travels. Unbeknownst to many of us, this is accomplished with the help of satellites. Having spent some time on Motorola's Iridium project some years ago, which at that time was to be a satellite based world-wide telephone system, I was curious to check out the current smart phones' navigational technology.

It seems that regardless of the navigational system (Windows, Android or iPhones) they all appear to function about the same way, that is from a constellation of satellites operated by NAVSTAR. Their constellation consists of about 30 satellites in orbit about 12,000 miles above the earth.

The reason there are "about" is usually a few spares are floating in orbit that can be activated for any that go off-line. Although the earth is round, any satellite at any point in time has a minimum vertical distance from a single point on earth.

Each satellite beams electronic signals to the earth in essentially a constant stream in a cone shaped pattern that projects itself as a circle on the earth's surface. You will remember from your



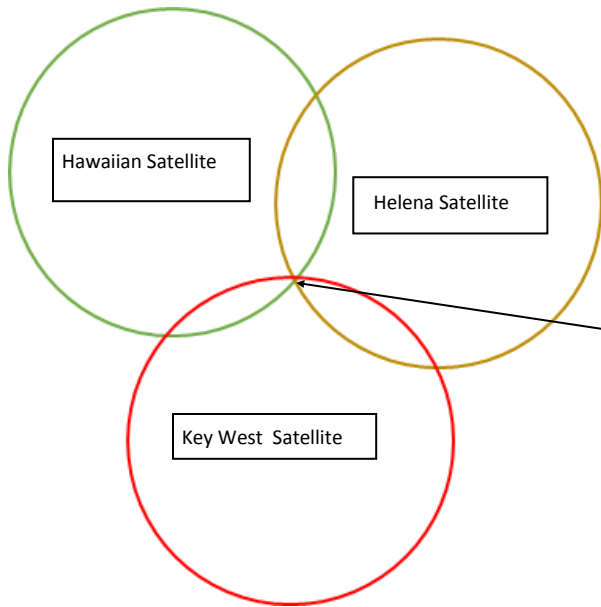
*The orbits of GPS satellites are inclined to the Earth's equator by about 55 degrees. The system is designed to ensure that at least four satellites are visible at least 15 degrees above the horizon at any given time anywhere in the world. Credit: [NOAA](#)*

high school geometry class that a cone shaped shell, open at the bottom will form a circle when placed on a basketball with the center of the cone perpendicular to the surface of the basketball. So, if a satellite were directly overhead, i.e., the minimum distance to the satellite, it would project a stream of electronic beams covering an area in a circle about your location. The data I reviewed did not define the radius of the circle, but it is probably hundreds of miles. For example, if the satellite were directly over Helena, and you were in Missoula, you would be on the edge of a circle with a 95-mile radius within the cone of the beams from the satellite. This would not be the total radius of the cone, but simply a circle within the total projected by the satellite.

With that firmly in mind, there are enough satellites within view of your smartphone at any point in time to be bathed in electronic beams from at least three, and sometimes four. So, in addition to the one over Helena, there could be one over the Hawaiian Islands, and another over Key West. Your smart phone, apply named, determines the distance to each of the satellites by measuring the time delay for the electronic beams to travel from each satellite. Since your smartphone knows the distance from the earth's surface to each satellite, and the distance to the satellite from your location, our smartphone reaches back in history several thousand years to some Greek guy by the name of Pythagoras to use his mathematical equation to

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

calculate distance from your location to the point directly beneath each satellite. That distance becomes the radius of the circle upon which you are located on the earth. The circles determined by the distance from your location for each of the satellites can only coincide at a single point, the point where you are standing.



Now, that gets us to the second point, how did that map get on our smart phone? Satellites can locate you by longitude and latitude but cannot show the Forest Service road where you are located. That information came from your smartphone's carrier (Verizon, AT&T, etc.) via way of the nearest cell tower. When you are out of range of cell towers, the maps on your phone are not being continuously updated. On my old Windows 10 (don't laugh!!) the map would be an unreadable green fuss with a bright red dot of my exact location based on the satellites.

My recent change to a Samsung S9 on the Android platform has given me access to a Samsung technician at Best Buy who pointed out a way to download maps on my phone while within range of a cell tower. As I move out of range, the map is still functional, with the satellite "you are here" dot on a readable map. I haven't had a chance to test this, but since he was a fellow motorcycle rider, albeit a Triumph, I have confidence it will work.

John DeBari put me on to an app, "Sygic GPS Navigation" which is promoted as an off-line navigation system using only satellites. I used it briefly on the old Windows 10 phone, but not in any location out of cell tower range. It seemed to perform quite well, and it was a free app.

Larry Banister's son provided a link to US Topo Atlogis which is a German firm. The link is:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.atlogis.northamerica>

This application is reported to use satellites only, so is in fact a Global Positioning System (GPS), however I was not able to determine which satellite systems. Remember, most US GPS's use the NAVSTAR satellites. The basic download is free, and for \$11.99, you receive the "Pro" version. Both versions have 30 different layers of maps listed, but I have not been able to open

Since your location can only be on the circle of each satellite cone, your exact location will be where all three satellite cones intersect.

some of them such as the ocean navigation and aircraft navigation. I selected the "FSTopo" layer. Although not defined the "FS" appears to mean Forest Service and it shows the topography in much the same way it is shown on Forest Service hard copy maps. I have been working my way though the tutorial (the app has a lot of options). I have not found a "route selection" option, i.e., "directions" as are available on Google maps. It seems to be very accurate on the "you are here" location. Additional data such as average speed, maximum speed, altitude etc. are options. If the accuracy is correct,  $\pm 11$  feet, it should let you select the correct exit road. Testing it on I-10 in my pickup, the system seemed to know I west bound in the correct west lanes. One other point, this app is designed for the Android platform and it seems to use a lot of power. Closing the app completely when not in use alleviates that issue.

I do not have any experience with the Garmin series nor the generic BMW marketed systems. Perhaps any of the readers who have and use these systems could share their experiences in a future Newsletter.

In any event, any of the available systems are more likely to get you to the next pie and coffee stop better than the dead reckoning method.

*Dick French*

I read that, by law, you have to turn on your headlights when it's raining in Sweden. How the hell am I supposed to know if it's raining in Sweden?



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The April Montana BMW Riders Club meeting at Lamkin's in Lincoln brought out 13 enthusiastic riders from Missoula, Helena, Townsend, Huson, Hamilton, Victor, Florence, and Lolo. In addition, eight other members and guests filled out the attendance rooster.

As you can see in the following photos, there was an ample amount of snow surrounding the parking lot, indicating Lincoln probably exceeded their annual average 47 inches of snow fall for the 2017-18 season.



*Lance Lerum rolled in on his R 65 from Townsend.*



*Mike Meredith, Helena and his spotless F800ST made the run from Helena over McDonald pass .*



*The African Twin - twins - Chris Froines and John DiBari*



*The Newsletter Editor-in-Chief headed for home on his Can-Am.*



*Figure 4 John Torma and his K 1200 LT along with John Webster on a similar machine made the ride.*



*Annie Hud-dy and her newly 'Farkled' R1200GS, the subject of another article in this News- letter.*

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER



John DiBari, Chris Keyes, Kevin Huddy and Lance Lerum suiting up for the ride home.



Chris Keyes looking where he plans to go.



As I was photographing riders leaving the parking lot, one thing stood out. Although the ambient temperature had a lot to do with the bulk of the clothing being worn, it was an All-the-Gear-All-the-Time mentality. Good riding gang!

*Ed. Note: Another Dick French effort..*

## MOUNTAIN HOT TUB

Bozeman	Butte	Helena
2744 W. Main	1601 Harrison	2300 N. Montana
586-5850	723-6513	442-5551



Ride longer. Recover faster. Repeat.

[kelly@mountainhottub.com](mailto:kelly@mountainhottub.com)