

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

Montana BMW Riders

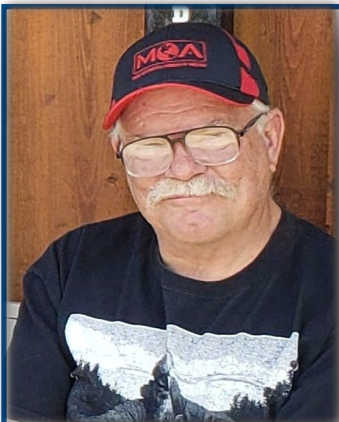


CLUB CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS :

BMW MOA #155

AMA #6830

## President's Corner - Larry Manchester



I hope you all had a great Christmas. We had a quiet Christmas here in the Bitterroot Valley. With my knee surgery on Dec 4th, we decided to not travel, just to stay home and rest and let the healing process do its thing. I am doing well; the new knee hardware seems to be working well, and flexibility is coming back sooner than I thought. Gradually weaning myself off the pain pills. I thought I could tough it out and just go with Tylenol but soon learned I am not that tough. The Dr. did a lot of work in that knee, (a three-hour surgery) so some pain relief was needed for sure. They gave me all the old hardware from the knee so if anyone needs a lightly used artificial knee let me know. See the attached classified ad.

Here is hoping that 2025 will be a great year. Several of us in the Club have some healing to do to be ready for the riding season. Let us all send positive vibes to those healing in our group and I sure hope there are no more accidents or surgeries in the next few months.

You will notice the 2025 riding schedule in this newsletter. It is always a challenge to put together the schedule, there are not enough weekends in the summer to accommodate all the suggestions we get for riding venues. We do our best to keep the venues that have good turnouts from year to year yet find space for new rides as well. New this year will be the Tamarack Brewing Company in Lakeside in June and a picnic at Choteau in September. We will also be going back to the Missouri River Bar and Grill in May. We have kept a lot of the old standbys that we all enjoy. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meetings, maybe we can arrange to ride together sometime.

It is that time of the year when we need to hold Club elections for officers. Every two years we ask the Club members to vote and approve the slate of officers for the next two years. I, and Al Murray the Sec/Treas would like to serve another two-year term. Speaking for myself, it seems like these two years have gone by fast, and I would like to stay on for another term. It has been an honor to serve and help promote motorcycling in the great State of Montana, and I have met and gotten to know some great Riders in the past two years. Al has done a great job as Sec/Treas, and I hope you support him again. He has brought on Venmo and pulled us into the new tech age a little, although some of us old-timers like me are hard to drag along. K Bill Clark has also done a great job as VP the last two years, but he has decided to not run again. I think he wants to spend more time hunting and exploring with that nice camper he and his wife purchased, plus spend more time riding. The VP is tasked with contacting all the restaurants to let them know of the pending attack of 20 to 30 grouchy old bikers headed their way. It takes time and patience, and K Bill will be missed. Lon McComas, who has recently moved to Seeley Lake has stepped up and has agreed to run as VP. Lon has attended a lot of our rides along with several MOA rallies and I am excited to have him join the officer team. You will receive a notice to vote in February from Dick French so be looking for that.

I also want to mention a guy in our Club who has gone beyond the call of duty. Lance Lerum has been our Webmaster for many years and has done an amazing job. I get emails from folks all over the US and the World commenting on our website. Lance would like to spend more time traveling with his wife so is stepping down from the webmaster duties. Volunteers like Lance are what make this Club so strong. Thank you, Lance, for all your years of service. I know Lance will continue to hold many of the meetings as his schedule allows so I hope you have a chance to thank Lance in person. Look for more news next month on the new webmaster.

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## President's Corner - Larry Manchester (continued)

Well, it is time to elevate the knee, put on another icepack and maybe enjoy a cold beverage. I have my road maps within reach of my recliner and every so often I start looking at possible rides this summer. Happy New Year!

*Larry*

## Classified - Larry Manchester



**For sale cheap, 2018 artificial knee parts. Used very little by an old biker, (bike has electric start so knee was not used for kick starting)!**

**Ask for Larry. He's the guy with a slight limp.**

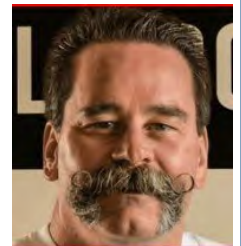


## Annual Mileage Contest - Larry Banister

For those of you who were unable to attend the Missoula venue of the Montana BMW Riders Christmas party, we had a great time, a great meal at the Den and enjoyed a brief glimpse of sunshine.

By way of recap, 2024 was a banner year for our riding contest. While our total number of participants was down slightly from last year, we had a 7% increase in the number of miles ridden by all participants compared to last year and a 66% increase in total number of miles ridden by all participants compared to 2022. So we're continuing to fulfill our duties of keeping the oil changes coming, new tires put on the bikes and maintaining the BMW riders image as serious motorcyclists.

The total number of miles ridden by all participants this year was 104,042. Our high mileage winner is **William Parker** who accumulated 18,613. For his efforts William's name is indelibly inscribed on our "Mileage Plaque of Honor" which will be displayed at Big Sky BMW this coming year. In addition, a check will be mailed to William in the amount of \$75.



Our average mileage winner this year is **John Webster**...who's actual mileage totaled 5,676...which is closest to this year's mathematical average of 6,120. (within 444 miles to be exact!) John will receive a check from the Montana BMW riders in the amount of \$50.

As per the rules of our contest, and to give a chance of cash to an eligible rider, after eliminating the high mileage winner and the average mileage winners names, the remaining participants' names were put into a hat and an "at large winner" was drawn for a award of \$50. This year's at large winner is **Rebecca Coursey**. Her check will also be mailed to her.



You will find this year's excel spreadsheet attached to this month's newsletter containing the names, bikes ridden, and total mileage numbers for everyone who participated this year. My thanks for the honor of keeping the records and my thanks to our Montana BMW Riders club for sponsoring the contest and for providing the monetary incentives.

*Larry Banister*

Montana BMW Riders Mileage Contest Coordinator

# ***MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER***

## **Editor's Corner - Officer Elections**

According to the MONTANA BMW RIDERS Bylaws, election of officers (President, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer) are to be conducted on alternating years during the month of February. Voting is to take place during the month of February, by all members who are current in their dues.

### **This is that year!!**

President, **Larry Manchester** and Secretary Treasurer, **Albert Murray** have volunteered to continue in their current positions for the succeeding two years. Vice President, **K. Bill Clark** will not seek a succeeding term.

To fill the Vice President's position, **Lonald (Lon) McComas** has agreed to be nominated for this position. Lon's 'motorcycle' resume is in the following section.

In mid-February you will receive an 'email' ballot to cast your vote for President, Vice President and Secretary -Treasurer. I will function as the "Election Officer" so your email ballot may be returned to me.

*Richard G. French*

### **Lonald (Lon) McComas candidate for Vice President, MONTANA BMW RIDERS.**

I grew up in Billings, Montana and got my first motorcycle in 1974, a Yamaha 200 RD. I rode it to school, but really wanted a dirt bike. I eventually got a Can-Am 125 MX2 to finish out my high school.

I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Upon completing four years with the USMC, I moved back to Billings,

It was back to motorcycles so I bought a 1976 HD Sportster 1000, which, naturally I rode to the Sturges Rally in 1981. After that, I put motorcycling on hold, got on with life and spent the next 20 years in Oklahoma.

In 2004 I moved to Manhattan, Montana. In 2013 when I was living in Belgrade, Montana, saw a Craigslist ad for a BMW 1150 RT and decided to get back to my motorcycle passion. I didn't get the 1150 RT, but did buy a 2002 R1150RT in Helena. With that bike under me, I joined MOA and rode it to the 2015 BMW MOA National Rally in Billings.

Since then I rode to the 2018 Rally in Des Moines, Iowa and the 2021 rally in Great Falls, Montana along with several rides to the west coast and Moab, Utah.

Along the way, I have also owned a 1997 BMW F650 Funduro and a 1999 BMW F650ST. My current ride is a 2016 BMW R1200RT. This was my ride to the BMW MOA Rally in Redmond, Oregon along with Al Murray.

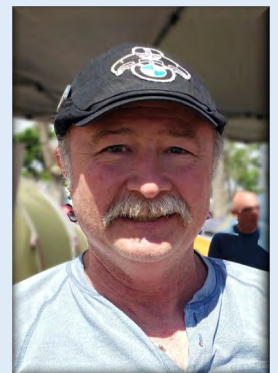
Year 2024 found me in the Libby, Montana area, once on my own and then with the group led by Ken Conrad.

In addition to the group rides, I have attempted to make as many of the monthly club rides (meetings) as possible.

I would appreciate the opportunity to participate as a Club Officer.

Thanks

*Lonald McComas*



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## The Year in Review in Photos - Editor

It is always fun to look back at the past year's riding and club activities and momentarily reminisce before we launch into the year's events. The year 2024 was especially eventful with the number of members who attended the BMW MOA Rally in Redmond, Oregon. My thanks to the members who contributed articles and photos of their ride to and return from the Rally. The Gravelly Range Ride, an off-road event was another great club adventure.

Again, my thanks to all of the members who provided articles, photos and comments about their motorcycling experiences throughout the year. These make the Newsletter.

Editor



The Double Arrow is always a good start



Mike Hofferber's goal was to ride every month of the year - January 2024



John DiBari honed his off-road riding skills in the area south of Tucson, Arizona for several months avoiding the snow in Montana. He also added a another component (see the photo on the left) to the usual off-road events.

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor



Water crossings are spectacular, road side repairs—not so much!



Nate Johnson showed us how he shared his motorcycle experiences with his young daughter.



Charlie Rossell showing us another definition of "Vintage."



Annie Huddy is introduced to her new ride!

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor



You know riding season has begun in western Montana when you see this image of a bike parked at the Lolo Pass visitor's center. (Lynden Clark)



When the April Club meeting in Lincoln has this many riders, it is a good sign.



May means Tech Day at the Outpost



The group home based in Billings were able to get out on the road in April in what looks like great weather.



David and Mary Fishbaugh shared the story of their adventure in Morrocco, and various modes of transportation.



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor



**Ken Conrad and Udell Sharp** conducted an advanced rider's course.



A small contingent at the ever popular Echo Lake Café Club meeting in June.

Riding season 2024 will be remembered as year of the BMW MOA National Rally in Redmond, Oregon with over 40 members and guest attending. "My Ride to Redmond" produced many memorable photos for the Newsletter, some of which are reposted in the following section. Editor



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor



Beartooth Rendezvous



Mountains—Museums



The Club's 'Air Wing' at the outdoor event in Phillipsburg.



John DiBari and Dan Siddens camp along the Continental Divide ride



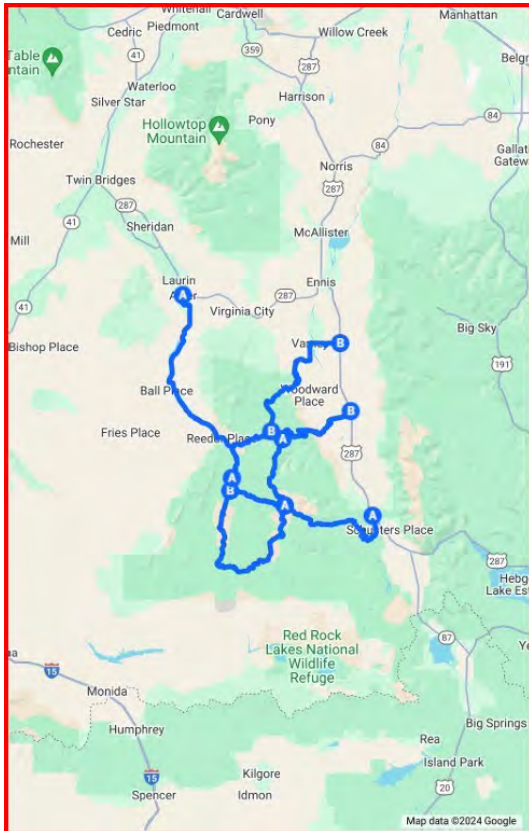
"My Ride to Redmond" Kim Lemke at the Vintage motorcycle display.



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## The Year in Review in Photos - Editor

Year 2024 off-road adventure had 20 riders “rough’n” it in the Gravelly Range in July. The photos will tell the story. Editor



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor



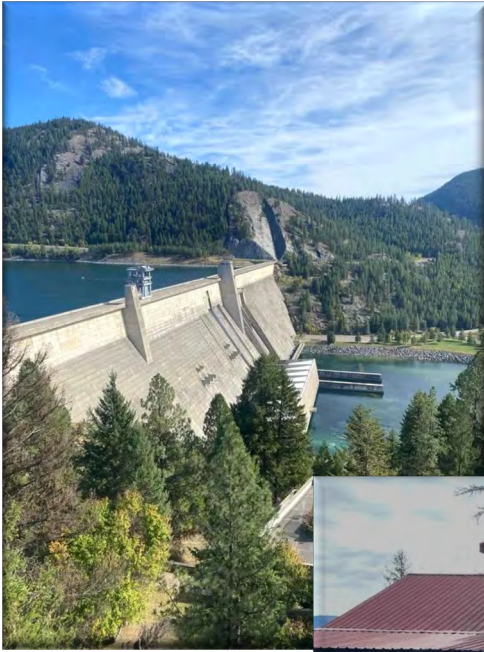
The Moto Guzzi National Owners Club, **Mark Ellzey**, **Paul Smietanka** and **Jason Andres** made the 50th group Rally.



Wilsall Bank Bar and Vault Restaurant is always a good stop. Photo by Ed. Field

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor



The Libby - Yaak area is typical of the majestic scenery motorcycle riders have in Montana. A group of Club riders finished off the season with rides along Lake Kooconusa, Libby Dam and in the solitude of the road between Libby and Yaak. Editor



Our Billings member's goal to make every month count, on their November sojourn.



The "Twisties" by Joe Frechette.



If this is what you see, you are having a good day!

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor

Year 2024 was a good year for our annual regional gatherings. **Mike Hofferber** opened his home for the members in the eastern part of the state. The **Huddy's** did the same at the Outpost for the central region members. West of the Divide members congregated at a new venue, The Den in Missoula. The photos show how we brought our year to a close. Editor

## Billings



Starting on the left front, **Terry Pancich**, **Linda Pancich**, the blonde lady peeking over Lynda's shoulder is **Kimmy McCloskey**, **John McCloskey**, **Mary Fishbaugh**, **David Fishbaugh**. Next to Dave's left in the back row, **Pete DeGroat** and **Michele DeGroat** in front of Pete. On Pete's left is **Scott Hecker**, **Rosemary Armstrong** and last in the back row is **Gary Armstrong**. In front of Gary is **Pat Endres** and **Mrs. Endres**. Moving to Pat's left, is **Rich Bradley**, **Lisa Bradley** and **Marcie Hecker**. **Mike Hofferber** in front middle, with the bow tie.



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor

## Missoula

Twenty members and guests attended the Xmas brunch at The Den in Missoula. We had the opportunity to meet the spouses of several members, many of whom shared stories of their involvement in motorcycling. I tried to capture some of those stories. Editor



**Nancy McQuarrie**, has been the pylon passenger behind Rowan on the “four-corners” of the United States ride.



**Patricia Hintz** considered motorcycle riding to breezy, which Greg found interesting since she was professional parachutist.



**Rojean Lemke** confirmed Kim’s story that their honeymoon was on the back of a BMW K100, since Kim had not considered it necessary to buy a car.



As a passenger behind Rick, **Christine Kuschel** thought her watch has stopped. They had covered 80 miles, including a gas stop, in one hour.

**Marilyn Hall** follows the ‘pole rule’ i.e., “...will not touch a motorcycle with a ten-foot pole...”, but there always seems to be one bike in their garage.



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor

Missoula

## Karen Springer

was courted by Lynn on a Honda 160 Dream, a classic motorcycle in today's standards. Karen is also one of several nurses in the club.



Member **Sandy Kuntsen**, chase car driver and master of the Rand McNally navigational system.

## Liz Banister

will be remembered among her fellow riders as having launched the Banister family into riding by winning not one, but two motorcycles in raffles at the local motorcycle dealers.



## The Outpost



In addition to the group of riders from the Helena area, **Ron Kitchen** and **Alastair MacLean** from Lethbridge, Alberta Canada were able to attend. No visit to the Outpost is complete until a group congregates in Kevin's shop to check what is on the lift, and generally parked about. A total of 30 guests arrived. Editor

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

The Year in Review in Photos - Editor



Club member **Mark Elzey** presenting a club donation (\$175) to Allison Server, administrative services coordinator at Helena Food Share.



**K. Bill Clark**, representing the Missoula Region presented a \$175 check to the Missoula Food Bank on behalf of the Montana BMW Riders.



Club members from the Billings region presented a \$175 check to the 40th annual Toy Run by the Roaddog IRO (Independent Riders Organization) in support of the Salvation Army. This was the largest event to date, with over 800 riders and \$90,000 in contributions.



December 25, 2024 - Mission Mountains  
**Rowan McQuarrie**

# ***MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER***





# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## Planned, thinking about, maybe rides in the 2025 Season

I asked the Club members about their plans for the 2025 season, and if the responses I received are an indication, it is going to be great riding season. I have tried to capture the essence of these rides the summaries that follow. - Editor



Soon after you receive this Newsletter, **Sandi Simons** will be on her way to Belize to do off-road riding with an all female group.



**Mike Hofferber**—“Thinking about two options on a big ride for 2025. Option (1); My road bike from Billings to Calgary then to Vancouver, BC, then back to Billings on a more southern route. Not many details at this time. Option (2): Hook up with a couple of gents in Medicine Hat and do Alaska, those details are very loose.”

“Also on the list is to trailer the dr650 to Tucson and spend the month of March riding there. Hope to hook up with John DiBari while down there.”

“... as far as ride plans for the 2025 Season, my friend Mike Gold & I are heading to Santiago, Chile for an 18 day ride south thru the Andes and Patagonia starting on January 25, 2025. The plan is end up in Ushuaia, Argentina, the southern most city in the world, before we head back north. My friend Eric Lang @ RIDEAdventures has set up the trip, providing us with Honda Africa Twins for the ride which a self-guided ride thru Chile & Argentina. You can find RIDEAdventures on the web at: [International Motorcycle Adventure Tours & 4X4 Travel Ride Adventures.](#)”

“I will be posting pictures of the trip routinely on my FACEBOOK page, “**Stephen Sullivan**” from Whitefish, Montana.”



“I’m planning on going to The most Northern Point this summer before the IBA (Iron Butt Association) 11 day rally that starts and ends in Iowa this summer! We’ll see how it all comes together!”

*Greg Hintz*

*Editor’s Note: The above is in addition to Greg’s annual meandering to reach Florida for the annual Daytona Bike Week, and the Three Flags Rally.*



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

## Planned, thinking about, maybe rides in the 2025 Season - (continued)

"I haven't finalized trip plans, but for 2025 I'm considering the following:

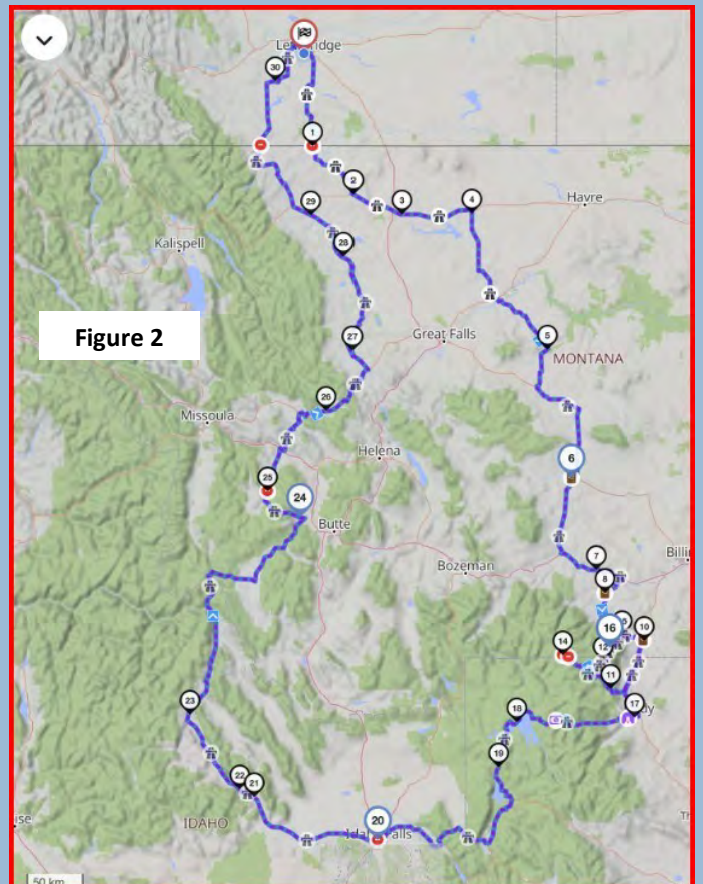
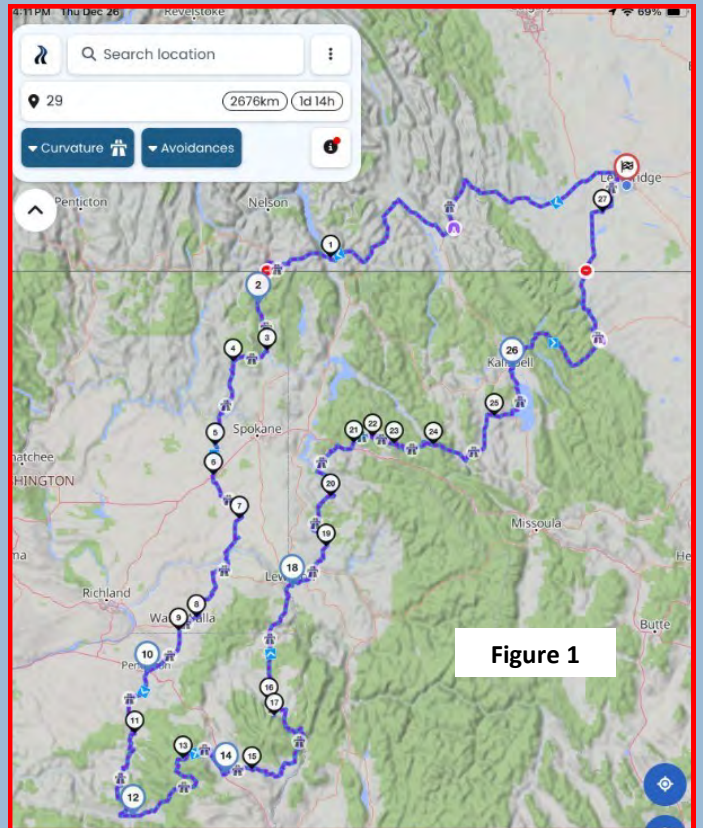
- a) some weekend trips in the east Kootenays / Creston / Kaslo areas on the RT
- b) some weekend "entry level" dual sport rides in Alberta /BC/ Kananaskis country on my DR650 to introduce my wife to riding off road (she just got her license and has been practicing on her XT250)
- c) an extended loop to the Chief Joseph rally in John Day in June (something like Figure 1).
- d) an extended loop to the Beartooth Beemers rally in August (something like Figure 2).
- e) possibly a 3 week trip to Colorado, with a resort in Breckenridge as a base for a week of day rides."

"If others are interested in joining on some or part of these, they can email me or text at 403 849120."

Thanks,

*Ivan Townshend*

Lethbridge AB



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

Planned, thinking about, maybe rides in the 2025 Season - (continued)

“During my visit to Arizona in 2025 I'm planning on a 4 day ride in Sonora, Mexico with some riding friends. I'll also be sure to keep you supplied with photos from other rides in SE Arizona.”

“As of now, no big rides planned once back in Montana. I have GPX tracks for some day rides in the Missoula area -- one includes a backroad tour of the Garnet range between Potomac and Drummond, and another backroad tour through the northern Sapphires and around the Flint Creek range.”

*John DiBari*



One more for **Mike Hofferber** - “One more planned event for next summer, doing the Rocky Mountain Roll camp out with Amanda Zito (YouTube Channel, As the Magpie Flies) again.” Editor's Note: *Amanda Zito, a native of the Bitterroot Valley, sponsors an annual motorcyclist campout at her parents family ranch in the Bitterroot, limited to about 80 campers. This will be Mike's third campout there.*

Other ideas for the 2025 riding season - **Tim Hoppin**, a self declared “new” Adventure rider is exploring possible training or instruction on the techniques unique to off-road riding. He posing the question, “Are other members are interested in similar training?” Larry Manchester, Club President noted this will probably be a topic for consideration. Editor's Note: Past president, Chuck Reaves invited Fran Tully, an independent off-road instructor to conduct a two-day training in local public access areas. Below, Tully instructing some intent members, in July 2017.



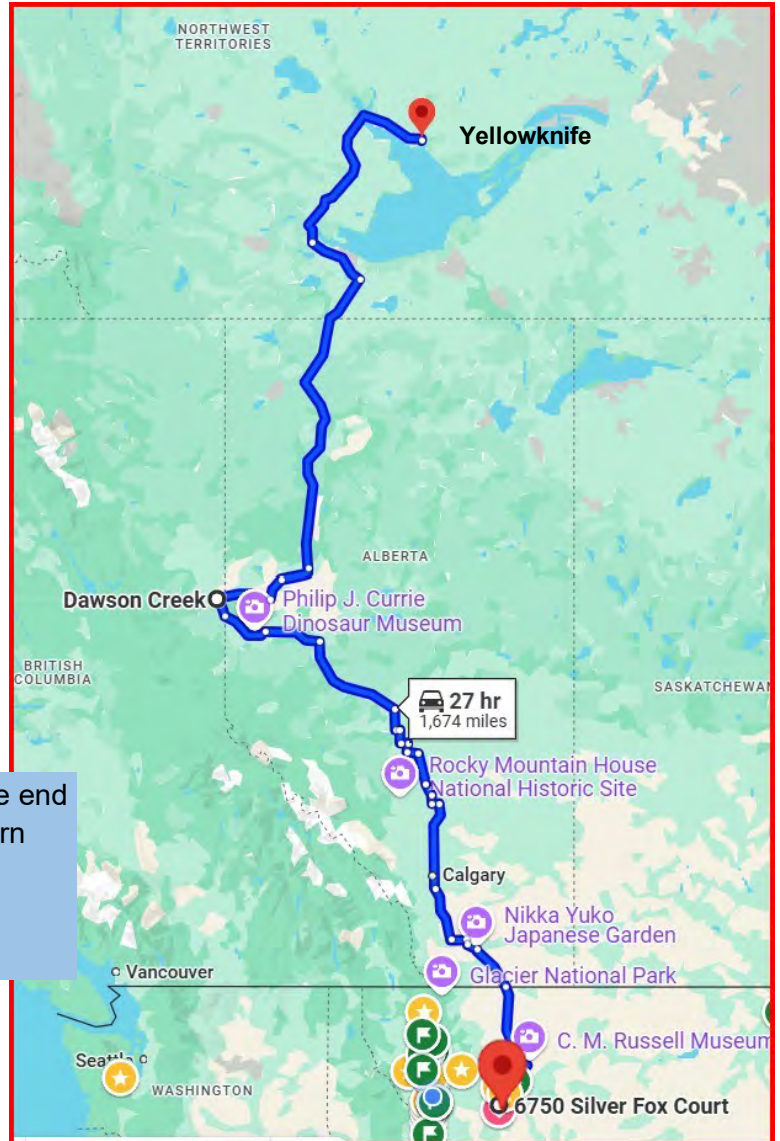
# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

Planned, thinking about, maybe rides in the 2025 Season - (continued)

**Kevin and Annie Huddy** have a month long ride into Canada, both on their BMW sidecar rigs, and their latest modifications. The ride will have a special purpose, that of escorting a new sidecar rider and her recently purchased rig back to Canada. Editor

“We plan to depart on 3 June and return around the end of the month. We’ve added Yellowknife to our return trip.”

*Kevin Huddy*



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER



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When you go, tell them you saw our ad in the MONTANA BMW Riders **JANUARY 2025** newsletter and ask about our models and financing.



**Nate Bertland**  
OWNER



**Andy Main**  
MASTER CERTIFIED BMW TECHNICIAN



**Nik Anderson**  
BMW & KTM CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN

# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

**Classified - Tom Moe**

## 2023 Kawasaki KLX 300 for sale.

- Absolutely like new, never down or wet. 120 miles or so. Added Kemimoto tail rack and Rotopax 1 gallon gas can, never used.
- Also available Rigg Gear soft saddle bags – paid \$160, sell for \$100 – never used.
- We have sold our Lewistown, MT home and as such I will not be doing any off-road riding in so time for this wonderful bike to go to a home it will get some use. If you have never ridden one of these, talk about a smooth great handling bike.
- Price: **\$5,500**

I could possibly deliver it to Missoula or west as I need to get my R1200RT to Big Sky Motorsports at some point this summer.

- Contact:

**Tom Moe**  
**406-599-5226**



August 2024

## Motorcycle gear for sale.

My wife thought she might like to ride but never did so this gear, never used, is for sale. Make reasonable offers and pay for shipping and its yours.

- ◆ Olympia AirGlide 4 jacket size L \
- ◆ JC Helmet CL-33 XS
- ◆ Slider Jeans size 12
- ◆ TourMaster boots size 39
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Contact:

**Tom Moe**  
**406-599-5226**



boots size 10 – like new.



# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER



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(Or search YouTube for: All Moto Tire)



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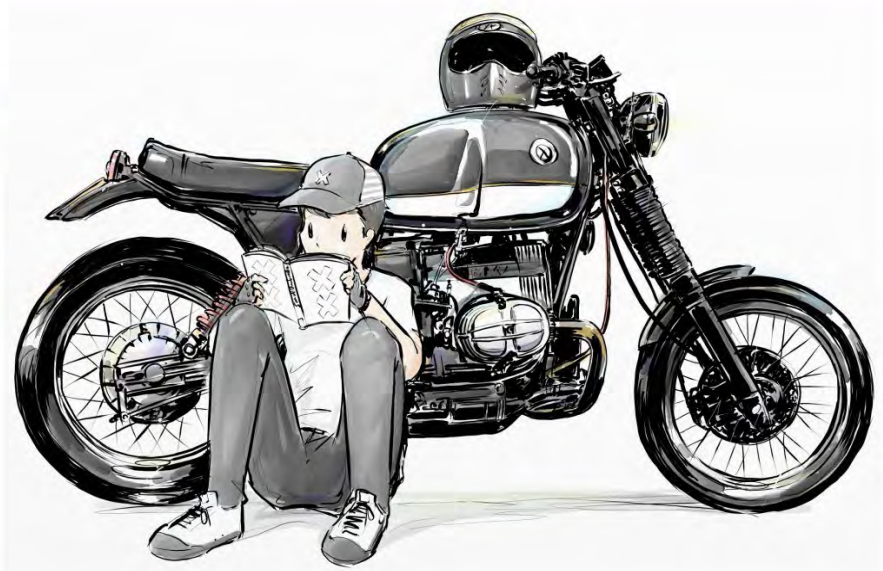


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# MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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# ***MONTANA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER***

## **Monthly Ride Schedule - 2025 (Rev 11/09/24)**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>COMMENTS 1:00 PM All Venues</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Seely Lake</b>	<b>Double Arrow Lodge</b>	<b>Dine-in Lunch</b>
February	Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	York	York Bar	Dine-in Lunch
March	Sunday	23 <sup>th</sup>	Wilsall	The Vault Restaurant	Dine-in Lunch
April	Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Lincoln	Lambkins Restaurant	Dine-in Lunch
May	Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Cascade Vicinity	Missouri River Bar & Grill	Dine-in Lunch
June		19 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	Lebanon, Tennessee	BMW MOA National Rally	Independent Food Service
June	Sunday	22 <sup>th</sup>	Lakeside	Tamarack Brewing Co.	Dine-in Lunch
July	Sunday	20 <sup>nd</sup>	Ennis	Lion's Park (picnic)	Picnic-bring your own sandwich, Kalenas Sandwich Shop is close
August		14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Red Lodge	Beartooth Beemers	Annual Beartooth Beemers Rally
August	Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	Phillipsburg	Zane Murfitt Park (picnic)	Picnic-bring your own lunch
September	Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Choteau	City Park	Picnic-bring your own lunch or buy locally
October	Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Ovando	Trixie's Antler Saloon	Dine-in Lunch
November	Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Basin	Silver Saddle Café	Dine-in Lunch
December	TBD	TBD	Regional Gatherings: MSO, HLN, BILL	TBD	Local Christmas Parties-venues TBD locally



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RESTAURANT IS OPEN!  
SERVING BREAKFAST, LUNCH,  
AND DINNER DAILY!

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Reserve Now!

*There is a 10% discount on cabins during the week for club members.*

# 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.

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### CLASSIFIED Ads FOR THE WEBSITE:

Articles, Letters to the Editor and photos for the newsletter are welcome and may be emailed to either:

([R\\_G\\_French@msn.com](mailto:R_G_French@msn.com)) or

TEXT to 406-274-0783

## Riding in the rear view mirror - K. Lemke



My first 'real' motorcycle - a 1967 Yamaha two cylinder 2 stroke 305 cc. - **Kim Lemke**

## ADVERTISING RATES 2022-2023

FULL YEAR—January through December

Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	\$ 75.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
Business Card	\$ 25.00

All ads will be on a calendar year basis. Ads will be billed to the advertiser in October of each year.

Rates are subject to change with advanced notice