



# Border Riders Newsletter

May 1, 2017

## Welcome!

The Border Riders Motorcycle Club (BRMC) is an organized group of guys who like to ride and camp. Our membership spans the Pacific Northwest, with the greatest participation in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver B.C. We have one of the largest memberships of gay clubs in North America, and welcome like-minded guests to join us on our monthly club events and local activities during the riding months. Check the main page of the website at [www.borderriders.com](http://www.borderriders.com) for additional information.

## Last Chance! May 15<sup>th</sup> Registration

BRMC 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Victoria Day Weekend Run

May 19<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Ardenvoir, WA, Pine Flats Campground

This is it, your last chance to register for our big season kick-off campout and motorcycle run at the very remote Pine Flats Campground hidden in the mountains past Ardenvoir, Washington.

Come and join us for another fantastic long weekend with some great food, good times, and amazing friends.

Get your bike in order, find your camping gear, and scrape off last years bugs on the leather. RIDE!



- \$145 US members
- \$160 US guests
- Adjusted exchange for Canada

This is the 48<sup>th</sup> year BRMC has hosted this legionary event. This event is not one to miss. Join us now.

This primitive campground is fully reserved for BRMC, where seclusion and privacy are features of this central base camp for day rides throughout the central Washington area.

Hiking up the Mad River and just hanging out is also a 'thing' if more riding isn't your plan.

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We truck in a full kitchen to provide breakfast and dinner meals for the weekend. This event also allows 4 wheel vehicles (except RVs) so you can bring your non-riding partner or friends as well as that tent that is too large for your bike (but really, we *are* a motorcycle club so at least try to rough it out). We expect a large crowd that always has a great weekend. All vehicles (except RVs) welcome, no pets, and no illegal substances.

Guests require a member to sponsor them to this event. If you don't have a sponsor please send an email to [captain@borderriders.com](mailto:captain@borderriders.com) for information. **Final registration closes at 9 PM on May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## Change Your Oil

Your crankcase should be filled (to the correct level) with engine oil. With the exception of the occasional additive, you never put anything other than oil into your engine. So does that mean that oil is the only thing that is ever in your crankcase?

Oil does far more than just lubricate your engine. One of its main jobs is to hold contaminants in suspension, preventing them from attacking or damaging close-tolerance machined bearings, crank journals and many other important parts of your engine and transmission. Blow-by (burning gases that get past the piston rings and into the engine crankcase) contain all sorts of chemicals, chief among them being soot, which is what turns your oil black. These chemicals turn your oil acidic over time, and left to sit in your engine, the acidic compounds in dirty engine oil will eat away at the metal inside your engine. This is why you always want to change your oil at the end of the riding season when you put your bike away, letting your bike sit over the winter with fresh oil in the engine - instead of allowing acidic oil to eat away at your bike's innards all winter long.

There is one other very important ingredient in engine exhaust and blow-by: water. You can see this on a cold day, when you first start your bike up, and steam comes out of the exhaust. You may even see water dripping from the exhaust as the water vapor condenses on the inside of the cold exhaust. Once the engine and exhaust heats up, this condensation stops, and the water is ejected from the exhaust as vapor.

Similarly, water builds up in the oil as it condenses from blow-by. Once the engine gets to full operating temperature, this water evaporates out of the oil, being sucked back through the engine, or either collecting in the drain tubes or draining onto the ground (depending on your bike model).

What happens if the bike doesn't get to operating temperature? Two things: the water collects in the exhaust, and also in the engine oil. Sitting in the exhaust, the water starts to rust it from the inside out. Some people think it's a good idea to "exercise" their bike when it is being stored by starting it every few weeks. This is an incredibly bad thing to do to your bike. Your bike will NOT get to proper operating temperature by sitting and idling. It does NOT need to be "exercised." If your bike is in storage, either over the winter or for a longer period of time, just let it sit. Put on a trickle charger to keep the battery fresh.

But as you start your riding season, regardless of the number of miles since the last oil change, if you have not been riding all winter it is a good time to change the oil.

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## Tire Test – Before You Ride

**Question 1 - Where can you find the correct PSI (pounds per square inch of air pressure) for your tires?**

- a) In my motorcycle owner's manual
- b) In any popular motorcycling magazine
- c) Printed on the sides of the tires themselves
- d) All of the above
- e) None of the above... This is one of the great mysteries of life.

**Question 2 - How often should you check the pressure and tread condition of your tires?**

- a) When you take your bike out of storage for the year
- b) Every 2-3 months
- c) Every time you take the bike out on the road, or at least once a week
- d) Before a big rally
- e) Before the cops write you up.

**Question 3 - When should you replace your bike's tires?**

- a) Whenever the tread shows signs of cracking, punctures, blisters, knots, cuts or irregular wear
- b) When you can see the built in wear bars
- c) When the rubber dries out and gets stiff
- d) All of the above
- e) After you crash when they slide out from under the bike in the rain

**Question 4 - What should you remember when buying replacement tires?**

- a) Don't mix makes and models of tires
- b) Size doesn't matter
- c) Front and rear motorcycle tires are not interchangeable
- d) All of the above
- e) Are they on sale and the cheapest that can be had

**Question 5 - Which of the following is a bad idea?**

- a) Riding on underinflated tires
- b) Overloading your bike
- c) Attempting to permanently patch a tire without a plan to replace really soon
- d) All of the above
- e) Not doing anything you've learned taking this quiz

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## April Club Meeting Recap

The April club meeting was again held at Vice President Dan Sweer's home in Oakville, Washington. To everyone's enjoyment, nice sunny and warm weather on this day encourage many of us to ride our motorcycles. Of notable interest to all was the amazing progress Dan has made on the construction of his new building. The exterior is now finished, with the interior framing coming along nicely. Early arrivals enjoyed extra social time in the warmth of the day along with an amazing nine guests joining us!

The meeting was mostly concerned with the coordination and planning for the Victoria Day campout, which went smoothly as this is well practiced and organized by the club after the 47 years of organizing the event. Additional discussion was focused on the monthly runs for the remainder of the year and planning ideas for next year (ya, its not too early).

Mark Brayford, our road captain for the last few years, announced he will be stepping down from this position after this year; so new candidates need to be thinking about stepping forward for this responsibility.

Dave Jackson, our videographer, made a request that everyone be thinking about their stories, experiences, and reflections of the club for sharing in the production of the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary video, now just two years away. Video capture of member interviews will be conducted throughout this year and next year.

After the formal meeting, we amassed for feasting on a wonderful dinner meal of roasted chicken and all the fixings. Tasty deserts topped it all off to make for vey full tummies on the ride home.

No rain! Finally got to ride the bikes.



What's that glowing thing in the sky?





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Vitamin D Workout



Dinner!



April 2017 BRMC Group Photo

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## President's Corner

It sure has been a wet winter and I am looking forward to some good riding weather this summer. This past winter was the wettest winter on record for Seattle since records began in 1895. Portland had their second wettest.

We had a very productive meeting last month. Thank you to Dan Sweer and his helpers for hosting the meeting and putting on a great meal. We actually had several men brave the nice sunny day and arrive on their motorcycles. What a concept.....a motorcycle club with members arriving on bikes!

Victoria Day Weekend 48 is just around the corner with lots to do, but planning is well underway. This is one of my favorite runs of the season. The first opportunity of the year to camp and ride with my club members and guests is always special. The weekend is a lot of work, but well worth the sweat. The comradery that is built working in the kitchen, sharing a meal and time around the campfire is something to be treasured. Not everyone is part of a club that comes together to share these special times and create those bonds. At the time that I am writing this we have 40 registered for Victoria Day and still have room for many more. If you haven't yet registered or sent your regrets please do so as soon as possible. Also, if you have friends who would like to attend please invite them. Remember, guests must be sponsored by members and you are responsible for their actions. Victoria Day is an all vehicle event so you or your guests don't have to arrive on motorcycles. This is our only camping run that is all vehicle. However, we do not allow RVs due to space constraints at the camp.

There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer at camp. If you are attending and have not already signed up on the duty roster please contact Dan Swear at [vicepresident@borderriders.com](mailto:vicepresident@borderriders.com) to volunteer.

Support Vehicles: Jeff Booth will be providing a support vehicle from Portland. Please contact Jeff to make arrangements to transport your gear. Dennis Hummel will be providing the support vehicle from Seattle. Dennis will be at the meet and greet at the Cuff on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. If you have gear you need hauled please bring it to the Cuff.

The Vancouver Gay Riders have extended an invitation to our members to join them on their Spring Ride to Whistler on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Meeting location is TrevDeeley Motorcycles, 1875 Boundary Road, Vancouver, BC at 10:00 am. More information can be found on their MEETUP.ORG or Facebook page: Vancouver Gay Riders. In addition, they have invited our members to ride with them in the Vancouver Pride Parade.

Be sure and check out your bike for the riding season.

Jeff Connor

*The following was originally published in the May 2003 newsletter. I would like to start a new column in the newsletter titled "What Is A Border Rider?" and each month have one or two members jot down their thoughts. This material could then be used on our website and for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video. Who would like to volunteer for the June newsletter?*

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## **What Is A Border Rider?** By Roy Sherrill

We all have people walk up to us and ask, "What is a Border Rider?"

I usually respond to non-bikers by telling them they wouldn't understand. And tell bikers they must ride with us to understand. Over the past few weeks I have made some notes on what a Border Rider is to me and would like to share them with you.

- A Border Rider is a man who understands when a fellow Border Rider goes camping but rents a motel room in order to keep his new Harley dry.
- A Border Rider knows the joy of arising on a Saturday morning on the Washington Coast, breakfasting and riding to the highest point in the Cascades, then returning to the lowlands but only after dining beside a mountain lake.
- A Border Rider knows the agony of waiting six months for a spark plug to arrive from Italy only to receive it on the first rainy day following a perfect summer and then have it turn out to be the wrong size!
- A Border Rider is concerned about AIDS and KS research and how, if it is to be done, we as gay men must do it ourselves because the hetero world will not.
- A Border Rider will sometime cook with a cold oven but when he does find the button, stand by!
- To A Border Rider, V.D. Day doesn't mean a trip to the clinic; it means a wonderful weekend in the Washington Cascades.
- A Border Rider is hopeful – hopeful that one day we will take in a member who hasn't tricked with Ron Van Dyk.
- A Border Rider is understanding when he goes to a meeting at the home of a Border Rider who isn't a gourmet cook.
- A Border Rider never drinks. If he does, he never gets drunk. If he does get drunk, he never staggers and, if he should stagger, he never falls. If he does fall, he always falls on his back so that his colours are not seen and no one knows he's a Border Rider.
- A Border Rider knows the agony of having the crotch of his electric riding suit catch fire.
- A Border Rider knows the beauty of the world as it can only be seen from a bike.
- A Border Rider knows how it feels to push a Gold Wing with a flat tire from Saltery Bay to Powell River, B.C. ...and that's across water, folks!
- A Border Rider enjoys leading the club on the highway, especially when he can make John McLellan go 135 miles without a smoke.
- A Border Rider knows the chill, the thrill, the wet soggy feeling, the ecstasy of biking – safely with the Club.



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## Road Captain Rumbblings

Our Riding Season Is HERE !!! ...and about damned time!

Last month, I talked about getting your rides in for servicing; hope you did. I just got my Honda VTX back and it rides so nice! My mechanic laughed at me because I had blue painters tape on my handlebars, I told him it was because occasionally the sun will shine off the chrome and right into my eyes. Being the great mechanic that he is, he coated the bottom portion of the handlebars with black matte paint (the type that can be taken off when you want). He did not tell me, but on my ride home from picking the bike up, the sun was behind me and I notice right away. Damn, it sure is nice having an awesome mechanic and he's right in town too.

So, now that our bikes are all serviced and ready to ride. It's time to talk camping equipment. Now is the time to get it all out and check to make sure that the mice haven't eaten holes and had babies in your sleeping bag.

I put up my tent and sprayed waterproof on it. Blew up the mattress to make sure it still holds air. Took out my sleeping bag and let it air out. I also make sure I have new batteries in my flashlights (I never keep them in during the off season as they will go bad and corrode the contacts). Charge up the air compressor for the blow up mattress. Charge up the backup battery power stations. GETTING READY TO RUMBLE!!!

As always, let me know if any members would like to be a road captain buddy this season. Thank you Chris and Richard for being my buddies in September at Larrabee.

See everyone soon! Mark Brayford, Road Captain

## Calendar

May	19th – 22nd	Victoria Day at Pine Flats, Adenvoir, WA
June	16th – 18th	Pearygin Lake State Park, Winthrop, WA
July	14th – 16th	Shuswap Lake Provincial Park, Scotch Creek, BC
August	18th – 21st	TBD – but includes the Monday for the Solar Eclipse
September	15th – 17th	Larrabee State Park, Bellingham, WA

## May Birthdays

We have 5 members with birthdays this month: Terry Bartlett (11<sup>th</sup>), Dave Beach (25<sup>th</sup>), Michael Chavor (27<sup>th</sup>), Jeff Connor (16<sup>th</sup>), Rex Cooley (29<sup>th</sup>), and Roy Sherrill (4<sup>th</sup>). Please take a moment to wish them a great day.



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## Meet & Greets and Local Rides

Every month, BRMC members will be available for new and returning guys to connect and learn more about the club and opportunities to participate. If you are interested, check out the following locations and time. Also, in addition to the club's monthly runs, local rides are organized, weather permitting. To learn more, email the ride captain for specific details at [captain@borderriders.com](mailto:captain@borderriders.com).

### Portland:

Meet & Greet - May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm at the Portland Eagle

Local Ride - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month - to be announced: May 6th

### Seattle:

Meet & Greet - May 12<sup>th</sup> 7pm at the Cuff

Local Ride - no rides planned for May

## Send Us Your Photos

The website has a place for our registered members and guests to easily upload photos you might take on day rides or trips. You can also easily upload photos directly from your smartphone. If you have a large number of photos or videos let us know and we can provide an easier process. You can also send photos to [news@borderriders.com](mailto:news@borderriders.com)

## Contributions

Trip plans, day rides, other member news? When you get out riding send some photos and tell us about what you did. We would love to add it to the newsletter.

