

BRMC GUEST NEWS – APRIL 2016

Local Ride Activities

In addition to the overall club activities each of the local geographies may have events during the month. Check the main page of the website at www.borderriders.com for listings and additional details. February lists some motorcycle shows as well as member activities.

March Meeting

The March membership meeting was held at the home of John Dunn in Seattle. Seventeen members and four guests were present.

In a written notice to the members present, Dave Eckert told the members that because he is moving to California he is now resigning his position as club President. He agreed to continue working on the website and newsletter. Dan Sweer, Vice President, agreed to take on the responsibilities of President.

The main item of business on the agenda was to address the inequality of the exchange rate between the US and Canadian dollars. At this time the rate works against Canadian members if they are required to pay in equal numbers of dollars as members paying in US dollars. If in the future the exchange rate were to shift in the opposite direction, club fees could become unfair to US members. The leadership proposed an amendment to the Standing Orders that would adjust fees charged to club members based on the fee in US dollars. If the exchange rate represents a difference between the two currencies of more than fifteen percent, the fee charged to Canadian members would be adjusted based on the exchange rate of Canadian dollars to American dollars. The affect would be that the amount paid would be different in the two currencies, but the value paid would be the same based on the rate of exchange at the time registration is opened.

The discussion of this idea was generally favorable. An amendment was proposed to include club dues in addition to event registration fees. Both the amendment and the main motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Booth who is doing the planning for our Victoria Day outlined what needs to be done in order to make the event successful. He asked for club members to be meal captains for the meals served at the campsite. This is to reduce the amount of work that Uncle Roy must do in meal preparation and serving. Jeff also suggested that the club provide gifts only for guests at the event, and that shirts could be made available to anyone going.

Then, there was a very lively discussion about what we need to do to promote our club and what people were willing to do. Here are some ideas brought up during the discussion that followed:



- There are many younger Gay men who ride and that we should be trying to connect with them.
- Participating in the various Pride events and parades in the region, and having information booths that the Pride festival held at Seattle Center. Pride celebrations mentioned were Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, Victoria and Bellingham.
- Setting up an outreach committee whose job would be to look into activities where we can participate.
- How to increase the availability of regional Day Rides. It was suggested that the area groups have individual members plan and lead monthly runs.
- Providing cards with Border Riders web site contact information so that people who are interested in the club can check out our events.
- Becoming involved in volunteering for various charities so that we will be better known in our communities. Toys for Tots was one example given.

The meeting was followed by a meal that Dan Sweer had prepared and a couple hours of socializing.



From the Handlebars of the President

Message from Dave

My partner and I have completed our move to southern California, but I remain active in the BRMC club business. Thanks to Dan Sweer for stepping up to the President position. I will be working with him, the other board members, and Jeff Booth as we transition and plan for Victoria Day. The club does not run itself and the board can only do part of the work. Our active members and welcomed guests are what make things happen. Watch for lots more information about Victoria Day and other upcoming events.

I hope to see you all at 2016 Victoria Day. Dave Eckert

Message from Dan

As all of you should know by now, Dave is stepping down as president. I have decided to step in as president to avoid any lack of continuity in the running of the club. If anyone wishes to volunteer for VP, please contact someone on the board.

Full disclaimer; I know nothing about running a club and I have never been on a board (well, except the coffee table). I also know nothing about Robert's rules of order or a lot of other things a president should know. I will be relying on the board as well as Dave and the rest of the membership to teach me the things I need to know and do in order to keep the club functioning and legal. Because I didn't run for president you may all rest easily knowing that I will not be breaking any campaign promises, I will however do my best and listen to the guidance you all give me. I will probably be able to figure this out but if I should fall short, please be patient with me and help me out if you can.

First of all I want to again thank Dave for all the years of hard work and service he has given to the club. He has left the club well organized and he has brought some wonderful men into the brotherhood. I have a great deal of respect and appreciation of what he has accomplished.

Those of us on the board are volunteers. But first and foremost we are members. The only difference between the membership and the board is that the board has the responsibility of making sure stuff happens when and where it is supposed to, in order for us to fulfill our mission of being a motorcycle club in a manner that supports the club's future.

It is also important to remember who we are and what we are about as a club. Each man has his own reasons for choosing to be a member. I chose to be a member because I wanted to go on adventures and have fun experiences with gay bikers. I wanted a group of men with whom I can share my life and with who would share their life with me. I wanted a place where I can feel safe being me as well as provide a place where others can feel safe being who they are. I wanted a place where I could provide mentorship and where I could be mentored. I wanted a place where I could learn to become a better person and a place where I could help others become better people through my example.

The BRMC is a very important institution not only for me but for the gay community as a whole. There are very few places where men like us can be ourselves. It is a place where we share our collective histories, create new stories, and honor the histories of those that came before us. There have been a lot of amazing men who have been members of BRMC and there are a lot of amazing men that still are members. I hope my work as president honors all of you as well as the institution. I hope that we are able to move forward as the "gentle men" I know us to be.

Most sincerely in brotherhood,
Dan Sweer
President BRMC

Road Captain Rumbblings

Riding season 2016 is here! We have been having some beautiful days lately, hopefully everyone is out getting some riding in.

At the last meeting in Seattle, the group talked about future sites for campouts. I told the group that I was working to get away from doing the voting for the next year's sites at Victoria Day and wondered if it would be OK if the Road Captain just picks the sites. After some discussion, some members still wanted to have a say in futures campsites. We agreed to use Survey Monkey to get an idea of sites the Club would like. I will be doing the survey later this month.

As we approach this year's rides, please keep in mind that I will be needing Road Captain Buddies to help with each run. This year I would really like to focus on the day rides at each run and will be asking those who are going to act as buddies to put together a few possible rides. Collectively, we have a lot of knowledge of the roads all over the Pacific Northwest and I would like to tap into that. It was awesome coming together on Friday night and coming up with day ride plans.

See you at the Dan's house this month. Keep the rubber side down!

Mark Brayford, Road Captain 2016

Birthday Men

We have four members with April Birthdays. Take a moment to wish them a great day.
Jason Wyatt (April 3); Dennis Hummel (April 11); Tom Curley (April 23); and Dale Conley (April 29)

Early Registration for Victoria Day in May



Border Riders Motorcycle Club

47th Annual Victoria Day Weekend Run
May 20-22, 2016
Ardenvoir, WA



Our annual camping season is kicked off at the same location each year. This primitive campsite becomes our central location for day rides and camp activities as we truck in a full kitchen to provide all the meals for the weekend. This weekend also allows all 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.



We expect a large crowd that always has a great weekend. Early registration gets you a discount.

All vehicles (except RVs) welcome, no pets. See the extra PDF for more information.

April Registration price \$170 for guests until 6 AM May 1

May Registration price \$180 for guests.

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 for information.

Final registration closes at 9 PM on May 12

Register for the April Club meeting

Oakville, WA: April 16, 2016

As we begin our 2016 riding season there is still a lot of work to be done. The April meeting will devote time to club business, Victoria Day and other event planning, and lots of social time.

Our Border Riders April meeting is hosted by Dan Sweer in Oakville, WA. The dinner fee is \$16 for members and guests. Upon registration you will receive an informational email with directions and other useful information.

You may arrive any time after 4 PM on Saturday the 16th. We will have social time until 5:00 PM when we start the club meeting. A group photo and dinner will follow with additional time to socialize. Dinner will consist of Roast chicken, wild rice, veggies, salad, and vegetarian lasagna.

Registration closes at 9 PM on TUESDAY March 12 so we can get a headcount for food. No refunds after close.

Guests who do not have an account on the BRMC website should contact a member to be sponsored if they wish to attend the club meeting.

Upcoming Schedule

April 16	Club Meeting – Oakville, WA
May 20-23	Victoria Day Weekend Camp, WA
June 17-19	Enterprise, OR
July 15-17	Lake Sylvia, Montesano, WA
August 19-21	EC Manning Park, BC
September 16-18	Potholes State Park in Othello WA
October 15	Club Meeting
November 19	Club Meeting
December 10	Holiday Party

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.

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.