

BRMC GUEST NEWS – February 2013

Local Ride Activities

- British Columbia:** Vancouver Island – Members and other riders meet Sundays at 10:30 at Moka House Coffee Cook St. Village, 345 Cook Street, Victoria, BC
- Seattle:** Feb 3 and March 3 – Planned Day ride 9:30, Julia's, 300 Broadway East, (breakfast about 8 AM)
Feb 13 and March 13 – Meet and Greet, 7 PM Cuff
- Portland:** Feb 5 and March 5 – Meet and Greet, 7 PM Portland Eagle, meeting and event planning
Feb 10 and March 10 – Breakfast and Day ride or social activity, weather dependent

From the handlebars of the President

It was so nice to see so many familiar faces at the Annual General Meeting at the Cuff in Seattle, and in particular members and guests we see less frequently. We had a nice core of members for the meeting and some eager nominees awaiting the results of their membership status.

It is so important for members and guests to meet people and take the time getting to know them and learn how they ride. That can make a huge difference in embracing someone new into the fold of this club.

Every year the AGM is the time we discuss issues important to the club as it is a closed meeting. One portion of our discussion related to bylaw changes and was presented by Bill Bender and Jack Osterberg. Another important topic of conversation was preceded by Jeff Booth reviewing issues regarding club decorum.

Thank you to Tom Curley for being the moderator allowing members to voice their opinions in a courteous fashion with respect to everyone. And to all those members that spoke their piece, thank you as well. It's always important to hear your perspective as it is what empowers the officers to carry out your directions.

If you missed the meeting I strongly encourage you to read the meeting minutes as soon as they are posted to the members-only website. We will continue to discuss these two topics at the March meeting. We strongly encourage everyone to attend that meeting – so mark that date on your calendar and be present; regardless of your voting privileges. Remember, you can reinstate your voting status by being present for two consecutive meetings.

The February meeting will be in Portland, Oregon, at the Red Lion and it's a time to gather and celebrate! We will be presenting the colors to the class of 2013, enrolling new officers, and giving awards. We will also have a video of last season's runs. It's a time to reflect on the last year and ignite the spark in our heart for the next riding season.

I'm hoping for a great time with you. 'Cause without you, it's just not the same.

February Banquet Information

Registration is now available on the public website for the Annual Anniversary Banquet. It will be held in Portland at the Red Lion Hotel on Saturday February 16th, beginning at 5 PM. There will be a cash bar followed by a great buffet dinner. We will present colors to the new members, welcome the new officers, present awards, and watch a video recap of last season's rides. Cost is only \$35 for members and \$45 for guests. You can get more information and the menu by clicking on a link before you register. We have also arranged for a block of discounted rooms or you might find a Portland member or guest who would be happy to host you for the evening. www.borderriders.com

Jeff Booth on Club Principles

Border Riders is one of the oldest and largest gay motorcycle clubs in existence. We owe our success to the traditions on which our charter members founded the club as well as the changes we have made over the years to keep it a dynamic and inclusive club.

In earlier days, when the Club was much smaller, members met shoulder-to-shoulder around the campfire and in each other's living rooms. They knew each other well and shaped their expectations of themselves and one another directly and immediately, month after month, at meetings and on runs. This is how the Club maintained a safe and strong environment.

If you haven't noticed, our club has grown significantly. We have about 70 active members. Added to that is the accessibility of the Club to guests. Often, our runs have as many guests as members. Making sure everyone is safe and comfortable now becomes a special challenge. How do we balance the expectations of each member and guest with the greater concern for safety and the integrity of the Club as a whole?

With this larger, expanded Club the dynamics are different. We have a large absentee membership: nearly half the members can't vote due to attendance. Every event and run sees a new mix of guests. In this environment, the old shoulder-to-shoulder mechanism of setting and keeping mutual expectations is no longer very effective.

Despite the fact they are not well articulated in the bylaws there are three basic principles all of us can use to guide our life in the Club. These are:

- We protect the safety of members and guests
- We maintain a positive public perception of the club and its members
- We work to assure the comfort and inclusion of all members and guests at club events.

The order is intentional. Safety is the primary concern. The wants and needs of individuals are subordinate to the reputation of the Club. The power of these principles comes from their simplicity. Easy to remember, they can be rapidly communicated to anyone coming in contact with the Club and its individual members.

Let's explore each in a bit more detail

- Protecting the safety of members and guests – while this applies primarily to the operation of motorcycles we must be aware of all aspects of safety around our events such as food handling, sanitation, fire hazards, etc.
- Public perception - protecting the reputation of the club. We have many "publics" - primary in our circumstance are others present in campgrounds, proprietors of the facilities we use, drivers on the road, law enforcement officials (e.g. police, highway patrol, customs and immigration), etc. Even in the most remote of locations we encounter park rangers and hikers. Our goal should be the positive perception that we are great guys and seen as trustworthy, respectful of the environment and facilities, and who are always welcomed back in the future.
- Assuring the comfort and inclusion of all members and guests at club events – The camaraderie that is uniquely the Border Riders can only be achieved when all members and guests feel welcome, included, and respected despite the normal differences in background and experience unique to each individual.

If you look carefully at these guiding principles they're based on respect for others and the law. These principles should then guide our behavior as a club and as individuals within the organization.

Is your roster information correct?

As we move into the upcoming riding season take a moment to look at the club roster and be sure your information is correct. Most important is that the club has a current and accurate emergency contact for each member. You can easily access the entire roster on the members-only website by selecting the "roster" link and then clicking on the Excel spreadsheet link. If you have additions or changes please be sure to email them to the secretary or give him the information at the next meeting.

Mark Your Calendars for 2013

The voting for 2013 camping locations was held during the Victoria Day Run and we have worked to reserve the locations which received the greatest interest. Because the focus for 2012 was more “southern” we are focused north for 2013 with two runs in BC. Mark your calendars now for these important dates:

May 17-19	Victoria Day – Pine Flats Campground in Ardenvoir, WA
June 14-16	Shuswap Lake Provincial Park near Scotch Creek, BC
June 17-22	Extended ride from camp back to Vancouver, BC via Bella Coola, BC.
July 19-21	Bear Hollow Park near Fossil, OR
August 16-18	Goldstream Park near Victoria, BC
September 20-22	Kanaskat-Palmer State Park near Enumclaw, WA
October 8-17	Proposed group ride to Death Valley
October 25-27	Silver Falls State Park near Silverton, OR (FOURTH weekend of the month)

You can find more information about all these rides at <http://www.borderriders.com/runs.html>

If you have suggestions for future camping runs please submit them to the road captain. We will be voting on the 2014 run locations as part of the Victoria Day run.

Portland Member Activities



What do you do when the weather is just too cold and wet to ride? Play indoor golf.



On Jan 6th Portland members and guests went indoor black light golfing and then to lunch.

On Saturday the 26th several Portland members met at breakfast and went to see a traveling display of classic Ducati motorcycles.



Contributions

Trip plans, day rides, other member news? Please send it in to be added to the newsletter.

How to become a Border Rider member

The Border Riders Motorcycle club is the largest and one of the oldest gay motorcycle clubs in North America. Founded in 1969 it currently has over 70 members primarily from Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. The club provides social and educational opportunities for our members and guests interested in recreational motorcycle touring. Our diverse, international membership is composed of both seasoned riders and beginners, and we come from all walks of life and professions.

We also accept all types of bikes. Our members ride a variety of makes and models ranging from sport to touring motorcycles, and we welcome any motorcycle capable of sustained highway speeds. This is about riding and group camaraderie rather than motorcycle brand. The commonality that binds us is the love of motorcycling and the enjoyment that comes from touring some of the best roads for motorcycling in Canada and the USA—all in a spirit of friendship and safety.

In the off season, we do monthly meeting and look for social activities to keep people involved. These meeting are open to members and invited guests.

We are happy to have guests ride with us as often as they want. Many riders cannot commit to the time and expense of attending most of the monthly events – summer and winter. We encourage guests to participate in any way that makes sense for them.

If you are able to really participate in the club we encourage you to consider becoming a member. Riders who have ridden with the club for a year may be sponsored by a member. Ask any member about the responsibilities of being a member and if they would be willing to sponsor you. Your sponsor will work with you to submit a photo and short bio which will be posted on our private website. Members will be informed of your desire to be a member and you are encouraged to be sure that other members get to know you. At our general meeting in January club members vote privately on prospective members. Accepted members receive their colors at a ceremony at our annual Banquet in February.

