

## BRMC GUEST NEWS – February 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](http://www.borderriders.com) for listings and additional details. February lists some motorcycle shows as well as member activities.

### January Annual General Meeting

Each year the BRMC holds their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Cuff in Seattle. We had a good turnout of members and guests. Thanks to Chris for arranging the food. In addition to the important business this was a nice opportunity to socialize.





**January 16, 2016  
Annual General Meeting**

**From the Handlebars of the President**

We had a great turnout for the AGM and it was a nice way to start the New Year. We had a very necessary and efficient business meeting to manage the club for 2016. The club voted in four new members and the 2016 board. The members reviewed the 2015 finances and approved the budget for 2016. The board will continue to be very frugal while promoting some great events for this year.

One important point of discussion was the exchange rate between the US and Canada and how it impacts the fees for our BC members and guests. We need to be respectful of the burden it places on our members and guests from Canada while also being fair and keeping the budget balanced. We have a committee to propose a direction which will then be voted on at the March meeting. Suggestions are always welcomed.

I want to thank the 2015 board for all their efforts this past year. This also extends to the road captain buddies and people who hosted meetings at their houses. It takes a lot of effort to make all these events happen. Each member that is active in contributing their time, offering suggestions, and helping with the events makes the club that much stronger. BRMC needs everyone to assist in the changes needed to keep the club vibrant, dynamic, and relevant for today's members – while at the same time protecting the traditions of the club and the goals of its charter members from 1969. Make your voices heard.

Our Anniversary Banquet moves from city to city in rotation and this year will be in Portland. This is time to celebrate our past and look to our future. We have decided to keep the fee the same as last year, even though we will not cover our costs. I hope you will join us.

Dave Eckert, President 2015

## Road Captain Rumblings

First, I want to give a big welcome to our four new brothers: Dave Hofeld and Dave Jackson from Oregon, and Dennis Hummel and Troy Allen from Washington (yes, two more Daves). These four have been awesome to ride with in the past and look forward to some great rides in the future.

I have Allstate motorcycle insurance and receive their newsletter each month. The website address is "allstateridernews.com". They do a good job with their articles and I wanted to pass a few along:

- Bad weather quiz - <http://allstateridernews.com/quiz/riding-bad-weather-quiz>
- Pre-ride check of your motorcycle - <http://www.allstateridernews.com/bike/control-your-destiny>
- I also have another maintenance app for your smart phone that also keeps track of your rides - <http://www.allstateridernews.com/ride/goodride-app>

We recently received a really nice note from the Entiat Valley Community Services Food Bank, thanking us for the food we had left over from Victoria Day 2015. We donated about 150 pounds of food.

*Dear Border Riders,*

*I want to personally thank you, for "Riding for Hunger" for our food bank. The food was very much appreciated! I cannot express enough thanks to you for your determination to help so many in need, who are faced with hunger and struggling to make ends meet.*

*I hope to see you again and to work with you in helping the many in need.*

*Ride on Riders, be safe and bless you all!*

*May*

As part of our 2016 Victoria Day we again plan to donate leftovers to the food bank.

Looking forward to a great riding season. See you at the Banquet!

Mark Brayford, Road Captain 2015

## Birthday Men

Surprisingly we have no member birthdays for February. But the club was founded in 1969 – so wish us all a happy birthday.

## Upcoming Schedule

February 20	Awards Banquet – Portland
March 19	Club Meeting – Seattle, WA
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

## My Take on the Anniversary Banquet

I just want to take a moment to expand on my remarks at AGM about the importance the Anniversary dinner has for me.

I've been attending the annual BRMC Anniversary dinner since sometime in the 90's. Through that experience I've come to realize the significance of Anniversary: it's been all about preserving the continuity of the Club for nearly fifty years. Think of this:

- by recognizing out-going officers and welcoming the new board we pass the torch from year to year,
- by honoring and receiving new members we renew the Club and introduce new personalities and perspectives to keep things fresh and interesting,
- through our various awards we recognize, reward, and encourage participation which keeps the Club vibrant and alive,
- by breaking bread together we honor and renew the bond that exists between us and which holds the Club together.

Of course, continuity is important only if you value and revere the Club. We all have our own reason for being in the Club and the value we assign to it. Let me tell you mine: by hanging with this remarkable, international group of gay men, unique in all the world, I hone my identity as a confident and powerful gay man. So, there you have it - that's what Anniversary and the Club means to me.

If you've already registered for Anniversary or plan to but haven't yet got around to it, THANK YOU!

If you've staunchly made up your mind that you're not coming (for whatever reason), know this: we're working to create a memorable, warm and engaging evening. Too bad you'll miss it.

As always, the bumbling yet well intentioned, Jeff Booth

## Register for the Anniversary Banquet

### February 20, 2016

Each year in February BRMC celebrates with the Anniversary Banquet. The location of the event rotates among the cities of Seattle, Vancouver, and Portland. This year the event will be held at the Kennedy School in Portland, Oregon which is an event center and hotel. Our evening starts as we socialize with Hors D'oeuvres and a cash bar. After a great dinner we will install the new board, award our new members with their colors, and present various awards. Dessert will follow the group photo and allow for more social time. This is a time to honor our history, acknowledge our ongoing members, and share plans for the upcoming year.

Directions, program, and complete menu may be found [here](#).

The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for guests. Registration will be available on the website until Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>. No refunds after close of registration. Guests who do not have an account on the website may ask any member to register them.

Gear Swap: If you have any motorcycle gear to give away or sell please bring it to the banquet. Tag it with your name and how much you want for it. A table will be provided.

## Tom's Nordic Adventure

I just got back from chasing the Northern Lights in Iceland and Sweden. No motorcycles were harmed in the making of this little adventure, though I did see some diehard Swedes on dual-sports riding around Stockholm gingerly picking their way along icy/sandy medieval streets. This trip wasn't about motorcycles, but it WAS about staying warm.



My good friends Tom and Ed were on a mission to see the Aurora Borealis, and asked if I wanted to come along. Ed's a great planner, so I reviewed his spreadsheet of the itinerary and thought, when will I ever do THIS again? They made it so easy - I just wrote some checks and they took care of the details. Another friend, Chris, made it four.

We took the daily Icelandair nonstop to Reykjavik from Seattle and spent a few days there, soaking in geothermal swimming pools and trying local delicacies like putrefied shark chased with 40-proof Brennivin (much like turpentine) and dried

fish slathered in Icelandic butter (chased with other, better local spirits Birkir and Bjork).

We crashed through nighttime snowdrifts in Land Rovers, looking for (and finding) some nice aurora sightings. It was wintry, but the Gulf Stream moderates the climate such that it's just a notch colder than Seattle. The whole place is heated geo-thermally, and with an Icelandic wool sweater (lighter and warmer by far) it was very pleasant. They do need to hire more teenagers to chip ice off the sidewalks, however.

From there we flew to Gothenburg, Sweden - home of Volvo. It's Sweden's second-largest city, and a great combination of prosperous and industrial and medieval and stylish. We're big fans of mass transit, so we rode streetcars and buses and finally a taxi out to the Volvo Museum - where else can you see a Volvo SUV made entirely of Lego blocks?



I dragged the guys to a nearby fire hall and knocked on the door, hoping to trade some North Kitsap Fire and Rescue patches the Chief had given me. Like firemen everywhere, they were enthusiastic and handsome (so were the women). We toured the firehouse and admired the apparatus and compared notes, all good fun.



We hopped a vintage but fast train to Stockholm, and from Central Station embarked on an overnight Swedish Railways express train to Abisko, far north of the Arctic Circle and possibly the premier location in the world to view auroras. The train departed on time to the minute, and exemplified the Swedish concepts of 'kvalitet' (quality) and 'lagom' (just enough, or just right, in moderation or balance). The 3-person sleeping compartment couldn't have been an inch smaller in any dimension, yet it was fully functional. That is, until the toilets throughout the train froze up at 2 AM as we headed north into the Arctic cold, with the potable water to follow. Polite society really requires those two things ... so they halted the train in Kiruna, the northernmost large city to put us on a bus to continue north.

It was mid-morning, yet the sun was barely up - and at its highest it didn't fully clear the horizon. That made for great orange-pink-blue light on the mountains, but was gone by mid-afternoon. It wasn't as cold as it CAN get there, but was routinely -25 degrees F at night, about 0 F during the day. That made it difficult to be outside for extended

periods, like to watch for auroras - which were in electromagnetically short supply. Ed stayed up until 3 AM one morning and looking at the gloomy NASA aurora forecast, finally went to bed - only to see pictures in the morning of a spectacular hour of activity thirty minutes after he retired. Determined, he stayed up the entire last night - and saw nothing.



The passenger trains still were disabled by cold, so we found seats on a bus back to Kiruna and felt lucky to get aboard an SAS flight to Stockholm. I did visit the volunteer fire station in Abisko, and the main station in Stockholm - firemen are similar everywhere. In Stockholm we connected with some guys Tom and Ed had met online, and had a wonderful traditional Swedish/Finnish dinner at their home in the suburbs. We walked all around Stockholm, admiring the high fashion hipness amidst the medieval cobblestone streets of Gamla stan ('old town'). Great museums, civic buildings and even the royal palace all mix it up with office workers and monumental churches, cars and a subway and light rail along with foot ferries everywhere.

We had rousing dinner at a Viking restaurant, and were always trying new bakeries as we adopted the afternoon tradition of 'fika' which is like British tea but less formal. Nearly everyone spoke English (mandatory from third grade on) which made it easy for large and bumbling but friendly and enthusiastic mono-lingual Americans. Fellow travelers will note that Sweden is much less blonde than expected.

So, no motorcycles, but a fine journey nonetheless. None of us get enough Vitamin T (travel) in these post-911 days.

Tom Curley



## 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.