

# BRMC NEWS – March 2012

## 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:** March 4 – Planned Day ride 9:30, Julia's, 300 Broadway East, (breakfast about 8 AM)  
March 14 – Meet and Greet, 7 PM Cuff

**Portland:** March 6 – Meet and Greet, 7 PM Portland Eagle meeting and event planning  
March 11 – Breakfast and possible Day ride

## Birthday Men

The following members have birthdays in March. Maybe someone will buy them some motorcycle bling to celebrate: Doug H, Randy T, Howard S, Bob R, Luke B, Justin W, Darwin G, Deb O.

## February Banquet

The annual Border Riders banquet was held in Seattle at the Washington Athletic Club on Saturday Feb 18. Special thanks to Kerry K for making the arrangements and to the staff of the WAC for the great service.

We began with an opportunity for Andrew to take individual member photos while the members socialized. Dinner followed with a great selection of food for the 70 members and guests who attended. The program then moved to awarding new members with their colors, installation of the new board, and the High Mileage Award which went to Darwin G with over 13K miles for the season.



Ty M gets his colors from his sponsor Tom S



Darwin G and Dusty E



Many past board members over the years attended this year's banquet.



Before we left everyone got close together for a group photo

## Planning for 2013

What? We have not even started the 2012 season... Many of the prime group campsites are available for reservation 9 months or even a year in advance. We were unable to get all the places or dates we wanted for this year because the group sites were already taken. To ensure we have a better shot at the places we want to camp we will start the process earlier, by making our 2013 selections at the Victoria Day run. Again this year we will solicit suggestions, research, provide the club a presentation of options, and vote on the choices. Please send your camping run suggestions to [captain@borderriders.com](mailto:captain@borderriders.com) now.

Most of our winter meetings are hosted at member's homes. If you are interested in hosting please drop a note to David at [president@borderriders.com](mailto:president@borderriders.com)

## **From the handlebars of the President**

### **Note from past president Dusty:**

Members, As my tenure on the Board and President comes to an end I give a big thanks to all of you for helping me to pull this group of great men. Without your support I couldn't have made it. With this my final message as President, I turn the helm over to David Failing. The Club is in great hands. See you down the road.....

### **New President David:**

Recently, I had the good fortune to review videos that were from 1992. It's amazing to see the gradual transformation of our annual prized gathering. By necessity, as our Victoria Day run grew, the need for equipment also grew to have a kitchen and covered seating. We've traversed highways and country roads and yet, I'm reminded why I joined the Border Riders Motorcycle Club.

There's an integral element that still remains.

Sure, you'd hear laughter from the critical comedic banter among club members and guests, see different scenery from various ride destinations of the great northwest, and even the occasional thick meat (I'm talking about the humongous steaks grilled at VD!) The meals have become more elaborate, and the President's cocktail now utilizes a machine. Though some of the faces have changed, it's the camaraderie that keeps bringing us back.

Our motorcycles brought us together. But there's nothing like the camaraderie!

So as the days get longer and our bikes warm-up, may the anticipation of a great riding season be met with the fulfilled expectation creating the next 20 years of memories.

Come ride with us.

## **March Monthly Meeting**

Brian and Sven have graciously opened their home in New Westminster, BC for our March meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration is available on the main Border Riders website and registration closes at 9 PM on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Hosting the club requires a lot of effort on their part and you can make it easier by registering early so they can plan. If you cannot make it please send your regrets, it only takes a moment. The dinner will cost \$10, payable in cash to Tom S at the meeting. If you need to cancel please do so before the 14<sup>th</sup> as we expect payment from anyone registered.

Members may sponsor a guest and be responsible for them. Register them on the web as they cannot access registration.

Directions, menu, and other information is on the web site and will be emailed to registrants before the meeting. Hope to see you there.

## **Victoria Day Planning**

At the March meeting we will be talking about Victoria Day and starting the process of hunting up volunteers for the various tasks. Watch for emails and we hope you will consider being an active part of the weekend.

## **Contributions**

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

## Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll

The history of the Border Riders and other gay motorcycle clubs proves to be interesting reading. It also sheds some light on the culture shift within the Border Riders that has made it so successful over the years.

The oldest gay motorcycle club is the Satyrs, who formed in southern California in 1954. You can see their website at <http://www.satyrsmc.org> and see a clip of their documentary at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKr5pbxjclI>. A group broke off in 1958 called Oedipus Motorcycle Club of Los Angeles, which is the second oldest club. (<http://www.oedipusmcla.com/historyBeginnings.php>)

These clubs were formed in the rebellious spirit of the time and were perceived as gay, leather, motorcycle, sex clubs. In many ways the start of the Border Riders in 1969 followed that same rebellious nature. But the 80's and AIDS took their toll on many gay organizations and the membership of BRMC dipped low in 1985. By the 90's the perception of the club was still limiting membership. Ron Lowe, who many of you met at last year's VD Run was one influence in dispelling the "sex-club" attitude and promoting membership.

In 2003 Dan O'Neill wrote a piece in the newsletter that bears repeating. Here is part of that article:

"I wanted to take a moment to look at the factors that have contributed to the longevity and the success of the club. Few organizations that are run by volunteers are able to survive beyond the enthusiasm of the founding leaders, yet while the Border Riders have waxed and waned over the years, we are a strong, cohesive, and diverse group after all these years.

"Camaraderie is the word most often used by members to explain their benefits from the club. When times are good, what could be better than sitting around a campfire in the Pacific Northwest after a long day's riding with a group of friends? And when we face challenges, particularly as it seems each year a member or two faces serious health issues, the members are there to help in any way they can. While some are fair-weather riders, there are no fair-weather friends in the club.

"I believe a key factor in the success of the club has been the adherence to the core values of motorcycling and camping. When any member is asked what the Border Riders is, the answer is always the same: we're a group of gay men who goes on motorcycle camping runs. There is no loyalty to any brand of bike, there is no political agenda, there is no attitude about age or beauty, and there is no competition or one-upmanship. I am glad we are not involved in fundraising for good causes – there are many other wonderful organizations who specialize in charity work and many of our members contribute in the community....

"Good governance has also enabled the club to survive a long time... we are not mired in rules, but we do recognize that group riding and group camping do require a level of organization and discipline...

"Lastly, one of the key contributors to our success has been that we are not a sex club. Now while I may personally bemoan our abstemious ways from time to time, the reality is that any club where sex is part of the core values eventually becomes a clique of tittering nannies. Such a group ceases to be open and welcoming. Camaraderie disappears and the vultures circle. That is not to say that a little romance can never happen in the Border Riders. We have a number of couples in the club and even have a few cases of partnerships having been forged through the opportunities afforded by the club.

"As we enter our 35<sup>th</sup> year on the road, I would like to say "Thank you" to the club for staying with a successful formula that will keep us rolling for many years to come."

So now at 43 years our membership continues to grow and the club is a vibrant organization. Three perhaps "unwritten" rules contribute to that success.

- BRMC is a drug-free organization. We know a few of you might smoke something considered illegal in private, but we take a stand on this and will ask anyone in public with drugs to leave the campsite. No exceptions, no refunds. Please don't put the officers or yourself in an embarrassing position.
- Don't Drink and Ride. Alcohol tends to flow around the campfire. But any riding under the influence endangers not only you, but your fellow riders as well. Consider that when you order your drink at the Saturday night dinner and perhaps wait until you get back to the campsite.
- No Public Sex. Putting 40 horny gay men in the woods is bound to arouse some passion, but take it to your tent or your room. This goes for partners as well. Both members and guests don't want to be put into an uncomfortable position when faced with activities around that campfire. This is particularly important at those campsites where we are seen by the general public.

We have a great run season planned, and hope to see lots of members and guests enjoy the riding, the fellowship, and the spirit of the club. Join us for the activities, volunteer where you are able, and carry the good times into the rest of your life. Border Riders Motorcycle Club members can take pride in being the largest gay motorcycle club in the country.

## Weekend Camping for 2012

Mark your calendar for the camping runs for 2012. You can get descriptions of the runs on our website at <http://www.borderriders.com/2012rundisc.html>

May 18-21	Victoria Day, Pine Flats, Ardenvoir, WA
June 15-17	Steamboat Rock State Park near Grand Coulee, WA
July 20-22	Log House Resort, Enterprise, OR
August 24-26	Cougar Rock in Mount Rainer National Park, WA (fourth weekend)
September 21-23	Sasquatch Provincial Park, Harrison Hot Springs, BC (fourth weekend)
October 19-21	Silver Falls State Park, east of Salem OR

## Alternatives to Tent Camping

Some of our members prefer to hotel it rather than camping and many of this summer's runs will offer alternatives. However, some are limited so now is the time to make reservations. Here are some suggestions:

**May** – Entiat, WA may still have one room available. Call 509 679 1919 to make a reservation. Otherwise you will need to travel to Wenatchee. Remember that all vehicles are permitted at the campsite, but no RVs and no pets.

**June** – Electric City, WA is about 9 miles from Steamboat Rock and has a variety of motels and services

**July** – The Log Cabin Resort still has luxury tent sites. Call Brian at 541-426-4027 and tell him you are with the Border Riders. Enterprise, OR is about a mile away with a selection of motels.

**August** – The Mt Rainier campsite is within the National Park where there are two lodges available. Motels are also available in Ashford about 20 miles away.

**September** – Harrison Hot Springs is about 8 miles from the campsite and offers a selection of places to stay.

## Call for Road Captain Buddies

It takes a lot of work to accomplish our summer camping runs and we always need volunteers to assist the board members with all the required tasks. Being a part of the event can take many forms, such as running a support vehicle or leading a day ride. The road captain buddy for each run does not pay the camping fee in return for assisting the road captain with tasks such as: locating and negotiating a place for the Saturday night group dinner; researching other food options; arranging for firewood delivery; and mapping out potential day rides. If you would be interested in being the road captain buddy for any of this summer's rides please drop a note to [captain@borderrideers.com](mailto:captain@borderrideers.com) indicating which one.

## Portland Goes Golfing

Portland members and guests really try to do breakfast and a local ride each month and have managed two group rides so far for 2012. But when the weather does not cooperate we can still find time to gather. Feb 12 we had a group breakfast and then went to indoor blacklight miniature golf. Fortunately they have a five stroke limit on each hole or the scores would easily have exceeded last year's bowling event. Collin F came in with the low score while Marlin H took some fun photos.



## Other Gay Motorcycle Club Events

### April

Desert Brotherhood Motorcycle Club has their annual "Smokeout" April 5-8 in Las Vegas. Information is at <http://www.lasvegassmokeout.com/> Saturday is the group ride around Lake Mead if you have made it down on your bike.

### June

Golden Fleece Run - by Rocky Mountaineers Motorcycle Club of Colorado will not be held this year.

Hawgs Dawgs will hold their run over the June 8-10 weekend in Ava, MO if you are up for a long ride (2K from Portland). Bubba is an old friend of mine and would love to meet some other Border Riders. Information at <http://hawgsdawgs.com/events-2>. Their event ties into a larger event the following weekend (but that conflicts with our monthly run).

### July

Valley Knights Motorcycle Club (Sacramento, CA) – July 20-22 Their French Meadows run conflicts with our run to Enterprise, OR. However, if you plan to be in the bay area this would be a fun run to attend. They have not updated their pages yet, but you can see some info at <http://www.myspace.com/valleyknightsmc>

Barn Dance - Mollalla, OR - Saturday July 28. Portland guest rider Dave J hosts an annual BBQ and barn dance for about 100 people with an opportunity to tent camp overnight. This is always a lot of fun. Information at <http://ridemcowboys.com/dance%20info.htm>

### September

Badger Flats - The Satyrs Motorcycle Club from LA will be hosting their 2012 Badger Flats Camping weekend over Labor Day ( 8/31-9/3). This event was the start of the gay motorcycle camping runs and this year they celebrate their 51<sup>st</sup> run. It is located above Huntingdon Lake about 60 miles east of Fresno, CA high in the Sierras. The weekend cost is \$219.00 but an early registration discount of \$20 is available until June 1. Details at <http://www.satyrsmc.org/badger51paypal.html>

Oregon Bears – September 13-16 the Oregon Bears annual camp will be at the Lone Fir Resort in Cougar, WA. (<http://www.lonefirresort.com/>) Bikers welcome, but additional details not yet available.

### October

Queer Biker Invasion of Death Valley – will be scheduled for October 6-8 departing from San Francisco. General information at <http://www.well.com/user/mcpsycle/qbindex.htm>

## 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.

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. 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.

