

The Raindrop

Since 1973

P.O. Box 23001, Billings, MT 59104

MAy 2008

Side Roads

Take the time to enjoy the things that life trickles your way. Enjoy the upcoming rides with RMC Members. You can't change what is behind you, but you can influence what is ahead.



Life is a one-way trip: so make the best of it on your rides. RMC Members keep in mind that wearing a helmet and protective gear does not prevent accidents. People prevent accidents.

Love what you do.
Do what you Love.

by President John Vanover

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meetings & E Board meetings are at **The Red Door**. Monthly meetings: dinner @ 6:30 & meeting @ 7:30. E Board meetings are the last Wednesday of each month @ 6:30. ALL members are welcome to attend. **Join us at The Red Door.**

MPG— by Dave Alder

A recent study found the average American walks about 900 miles year. Another study found Americans drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you proud to be American.

2008 Calendar of Events

May 4th—Spring Scramble Race. Call 406-656-9960 for information.
May 10th— 27th Annual Montana Women's Run.
May 12-17— MSU-Billings Wine and Food Festival.
May 14th— Monthly Meeting. Dinner @ 6:30, meeting @ 7:30.
May 21st—Dinner Ride @ 6:00 to Whitlocks Steakhouse in Columbus. Leave McDonalds @ 6:00.
July 3-6— Wing Ding 30 @ Greenville, SC.
July 11-12 Relay for Life, West High Track @ 7:00 pm Friday until 9:00 am Saturday.
August 1st— (Friday) The Warm Up Flat Track AMA Pro-AM BMC Short Track @ 6:00 pm at South Hills, BMC grounds.
August 2nd— The Warm Up Flat Track @ MetraPark, AMA Flat Track Grand National Singles.
August 4-10— Sturgis Rally, Sturgis, SD.

Welcome to new ad sponsors!

**Look what Tom Hess has to offer.....
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The Official Website

<http://home.bresnan.net/~bcpmmach/>

Yahoo-members' only site

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RainmakersMC/>



From the Editor.....

The Raindrop is posted to both websites each month. **No email ?** I'll mail you a hard copy! **Let me know if you get email. I can always add you to the email list!**

Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month.
Contact me @ 252-7704 or email @ bcpmmach@bresnan.net.

Cheryl Blaquiere

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TODD & KAREN BELL

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Cody Trip Information- June 7 & 8, 2008

Ride Leaders: Bill & Cheryl Blaquiere @ 252-7704.

Buffalo Bill Museum 307-578-4014 Group Rate \$12.50 ea.

Dan Millers Cowboy Music Review 307-272-7855
\$12.00 per ticket @ 8:00 in the old Theater. Open at 7:30.

MOTELS: Big Bear Motel: 307-587-3117

**10 rooms (5- 1 king & 5- 2 queen), reserved in our name & Rainmakers AND held with OUR credit card).
Deadline date May 15th, 2008.** King -\$62.00 & 2 Queen-\$69.00. They welcome motorcycles.

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Ponderosa Campground : 307/ 587-9203

KOA Campground: Phone 307/ 587-2369

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Bill Blaquiere
Vice President

Save Some Bucks While You Travel

May 2008 issue of AMA

The benefits of AMA membership just got better. Your AMA card now makes it cheaper to stay at nearly 5000 hotels all over the country and the world.

Choice Hotels has partnered with the AMA to offer members a 15 percent discount at participating hotels. And as one of the largest hotel groups in the world, that means Choice gives you lots of choices, including: **Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality Inn, Sleep Inn, Clarion, LaQuinta, MainStay Suites, Suburban Extended Stay, Rodeway Inn, EconoLodge.**

With nearly 5000 hotels in so many places, Choice Hotels can help you find a place to spend the night that fits both your plans and budget.

Your AMA discount is available regardless of why you're traveling. So you'll save whether on a motorcycle tour, traveling to an AMA race, on a family vacation or even traveling for business.

To get your 15 percent discount, make reservations through the Choice Hotels website, www.choicehotels.com or call the company's toll-free reservations number, 800-258-2847 for help.

If you go to the website, click on "Enter Special Rate ID" and enter the AMA ID number: 00947556. Then click 'Submit' and follow the usual procedure for making reservations by choosing your destination and travel dates. The AMA member discount will automatically be applied.

If you call the toll-free telephone number to make reservations, just use the same ID number 00947556, to receive the 15 percent discount.

Please pay your dues if you haven't already!

Happy Mothers Day





2008 RAINMAKER RIDE SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| MAR 23 | 10:00 AM | BLESSING OF THE BIKES @ EAGLES IN BLGS HGTS | |
| APR 13 | 10:00 AM | COLUMBUS SHAKEDOWN | MIKE HENRY |
| APR 20 | 10:00 AM | SHOW UP | |
| APR 27 | 10:00 AM | RAPELJE/RED LODGE | JOHN VANOVER |
| MAY 4 | 9:00 AM | POWELL/LOVELL | DICK SLAGOWSKI |
| MAY 11 | 9:00 AM | SHOW UP (MOTHERS DAY) | |
| MAY 18 | 9:00 AM | FISHTAIL & NYE | DAVE DEBOER |
| MAY 25 | 9:00 AM | SHOW UP (3 DAY MEMORIAL WEEKEND) | |
| JUN 1 | 8:00 AM | SHERIDAN, WY | TERRY JESSEE |
| JUN 7-8 | 8:00 AM | CODY MUSEUM/ YNP (SA, SU) | BILL BLAQUIERE |
| JUN 8 | 8:00 AM | SHOW UP | |
| JUN 15 | 8:00 AM | SHOW UP (FATHERS DAY) | |
| JUN 22 | 8:00 AM | DEAD INDIAN PASS | PAUL MUNDSCHENK |
| JUN 29 | 8:00 AM | CODY-PAHASKA TEEPEE | DICK SLAGOWSKI |
| JUL 4-6 | 7:00 AM | LOLO PASS (TENTATIVE FR, SA, SU) (_____) | |
| JUL 6 | 8:00 AM | SHOW UP | |
| JUL 13 | 8:00 AM | BIG HORNS | DON BUSHMAN |
| JUL 20 | 8:00 AM | STORY, WY | DARREL LAVOY |
| JUL 27 | 8:00 AM | BEARTOOTH ATTACK | DAVE JARZYNA |
| AUG 3 | 8:00 AM | PHIL K ISS PICNIC & RIDE | EVERYONE |
| AUG 10 | 8:00 AM | SHOW UP (STURGIS RALLY WEEK--- AUG 4-10) | |
| AUG 15-17 | 7:00 AM | WIND RIVER, TETONS & PARK (FR, SA, SU) MIKE HENRY | |
| AUG 24 | 8:00 AM | SARPY CREEK | LARRY NICHOLS |
| AUG 31 | 8:00 AM | SHOW UP (3 DAY LABOR DAY WEEKEND) | |
| SEP 7 | 9:00 AM | UTICA/HOBSON HAY BALES | GENE WASIA |
| SEP 14 | 9:00 AM | INGOMAR-PASS THE GASS | DAVE ALDER |
| SEP 21 | 9:00 AM | MONTANA HANNAS | DAVIS & HESS |
| SEP 28 | 9:00 AM | MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR | BYRNES & BROWN |
| JAN 1, 09 | NOON | NEW YEARS DAY RIDE | DARREL LAVOY |

< RAINMAKER'S "SATURDAY" SHOW UP RIDES>>>>>>

4 HRS MAXIMUM>>>>>> <<<<<< ON THE 1ST & 3RD SATURDAYS OF EACH MONTH>>>>>>
10:00-2:00 IN MAY, JUN, SEP 8:00-12:00 IN JUL & AUG

OCTOBER SHOW UP RIDES @ 10:00 AM AND NOVEMBER THRU APRIL @ 11:00 AM

MID WEEK DINNER RIDES DEPART @ 6 PM FROM MCDONALDS SOUTH BLGS BLVD.

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1/1/08 | 307 BAR 7 GRILL / COLUMBUS | 322-4511 |
| 1/16 | JADE PALACE / BLGS | 656-8888 |
| 2/20 | SANTA FE REDS / BLGS | 252-2221 |
| 3/19 | LAUREL COUNTRY CLUB / LAUREL | 628-2060 |
| 4/16 | THE ROCKPILE / BLGS | 245-5985 |
| 5/21 | WHITLOCKS STEAKHOUSE / COLUMBUS | 322-8677 |
| 6/18 | HOMESTEAD CAFÉ / JOLIET | 962-3911 |
| 7/16 | TINY'S TAVERN / BLGS | 259-0828 |
| 8/20 | FORT ROCKVALE / ROCKVALE | 962-3963 |
| 9/17 | STROKERS TAVERN / HUNTLEY | 348-2042 |
| 10/15 | GUSICKS / BLGS | 652-5441 |

The Rainmakers Motorcycle Club was formed in 1973 as a Touring Motorcycle Club to promote goodwill and fellowship. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. The Club is open to all makes of motorcycles.



Rainmaker Meeting Minutes

April 9 , 2008



President John Vanover called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. 23 RMC members attended this month's meeting.

March minutes were accepted.

Treasury report: \$998.24

Old and New Business:

1. Phil Kniss Barbeque (August 2) Riverfront Park #2.
2. Mileage Sheets.
3. Ride sponsor decides whether we have rolls and coffee or ice cream on the rides.
4. New T-shirts, short sleeve \$10.00, long sleeved \$13.00.
5. It was suggested that we wear our vests to meetings and dinner.
6. Update on Darrel Lavoy.

Dinner Ride: Santa Fe Reds February 20th @ 6:00 pm

WINNERS: 50/50 \$12.50 Dave DeBoer
NO Shake A Day winners this evening.

Motion to adjourn made by Don Bushman and seconded by Gary Flagler.
Submitted by Beverly Mundschenk.

Please pay your dues if you haven't already

YELLOWSTONE HIGHLAND GAMES 2008

Sponsored by the Caledonian Pipes and Drums of Billings, Montana

<http://www.yellowstonehighlandgames.us/>

Coming June 27th and 28th, 2008 in Billings Montana

Planning is now in progress for the Yellowstone Highland Games to be held at ZooMontana, 2100 Shiloh Rd, Billings, Montana.

The Caledonian Pipes and Drums of Billings is the organizer of the games and welcomes all input, assistance, donations and advice. Events will include pipe band competition, solo piping and drumming, highland dance, athletics, Scottish fiddle competition, highland cattle exhibition, Scottish and Celtic vendors, country dance exhibition, Scottish ale brewers' competition, a Friday evening concert, participants' ceilidh, and much more.

If you would like to be involved in the Yellowstone Highland Games, please contact Pipe Major Donell Small at (406) 652-3289.

FOR SALE PAGE

Rainmaker T- Shirts

Short Sleeves-\$10.00 to \$13.00

Long Sleeves- \$13.00 to \$15.00

Call Cheryl Blaquiére @ 252-7704.



Rainmaker Items for Sale:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Small Stickers | \$2.50 |
| Large Stickers | \$4.00 |
| Rainmaker Pins | \$2.60 ea |
| Rainmaker Patches | \$7.00 ea |
| Rainmaker License Plate Frames | \$15.00 |
| Rainmaker flags | \$12.95 |
| Montana Flag | \$10.95 |

There are now new Rainmaker license plate frames. Call John Vanover or Bill Blaquiére for information.

Custom Made Windshield Covers

Any make or model of bike.
\$60.00 plus \$5.00 shipping
Contact Darrel LaVoy.



Memory Patches

Phil Kniss patch-@ Monograms Unlimited @ \$5.00 or \$6.00.
"Just Bob"(Bob Schrameck)-\$5.00 each. Contact Russ & Laurie Parpart, District directors for GWRRA.

Please pay your dues if you haven't already

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Rainmaker News

May Birthday's & Anniversaries

Birthdays: 4th Gary Flagler
7th Pat Redler & Kim Hopkins
17th Dwight Hodges
22nd Kevin Frank
30th Kelly Beebe



Anniversaries: NONE

April Correction:

Anniversary– April 27th Darrel & Janice Lavoy

For Fun

What was the worst car of all time?

1. Chevrolet Vega (1970-74)
2. Ford Pinto (1971-80)
3. AMC Pacer (1975-80)
4. Yugo GV (1981-91)

Send your vote to yaaa@csaa.com by May 7th, 2008. You will be entered in the AAA random drawing for a chance to win a \$100.00 gas card!

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Overthinking it... May 2008 AMA issue

Though we're loathe to admit it, most of us have to spend some time driving cars from time to time. But that doesn't mean you have to turn off your motorcycle thinking.

Instead, **practice the scanning and predicting skills that are second-nature on a bike while you're driving your car.**

Not only will it keep you sharper and safer, but it's a lot more engaging that just slipping into automobile-zombie mode.

Tiny's Tavern Curt Grimm

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Your Turn...

How do you react to rude driving?

- 35% Honk their horn.
- 29% Curse at the offending driver.
- 18% Other
- 10% Wave your fist or arm.
- 8% Make an obscene gesture.

From VIA– AAA Traveler's Companion

Ride Out Loud

By Sharon Stanley- Wing World Editor, May 2008

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and motorcyclists everywhere should applaud the efforts of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or initiating this effort, geared at making motorists more aware of sharing the road with motorcycles.

The following are excerpts from the above article:

We can speak louder than words by increasing our own visibility when we ride. Now obviously, reflective/fluorescent vests, jackets, decals, tape and more are great ways to make ourselves more visible to other motorists when riding. And so are techniques like auxiliary driving and brake lights and brightly colored gear and brightly colored bikes. And let's not forget about strategic lane positioning, especially when we're near large trucks with significant blind spots.

Did you know? Over one-third of motorcycle collisions occur at intersections.

To be more visible: When making a right hand turn, angle your motorcycle across the lane (45 degrees) to create a larger blocking position and to make yourself more visible to drivers behind you.

Did you know? The helmet is the most visible component of a rider's gear.

To be more visible: Wear a white helmet. A recent study in New Zealand found that riders who wore a white helmet were 24 percent less likely to be involved in a multi vehicle crash than riders who wore a black helmet. Adding reflective tape is also a great idea.

Did you know? Because a car or truck driver behind you can see around you, they often do not realize how close you really are. To be more visible: Instead of just braking to slow or to stop, squeeze the brake lever several times to alert other drivers before you begin to slow. This will raise awareness.

Did you know? A motorcycle with it's light on is twice as likely to be noticed.

To be more visible: The best way to help others see your motorcycle is to always keep the headlight on. Using your HIGH beam during the day and at night increases the chances that oncoming drivers will see you. Use your high beam if it is legal to do so. A modulating headlight, if permitted in the state in which you are riding, may be useful since a pulsing headlight in traffic is a rare sight.

Did you know? Any movement attracts the eye, and the more abrupt the movement, the more quickly the eye is attracted. To be more visible: In addition to using turn signals, use hand signals as well to draw more attention to yourself. Hand signals tend to draw motorists attention to your intentions and, therefore to YOU!

Website Sources:

www.mto.gov.on.ca

www.dmv.ca.gov

www.cba-abatenc.org/msap.htm

www.motorcyclesafety.state.mn-us

www.dmv.state.pa.us

<http://blackmountainmotorcycleclub.com>

From the Raindrop Editor: As always, I only took what I felt important from the article. It gave excellent safety tips. May issue of Wing World, 2008.

May 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------|-----|--|---|----------------------|--|
| All rides leave McDonalds at time shown on calendar & ride schedule! | | | | 1 <i>May Day & National Day of Prayer</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Powell/Lovell Ride @ 9:00 B-Day Gary Flagler | 5 <i>Cinco De Mayo</i> | 6 | 7 B-Day Pat Redler Kim Hopkins | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 <i>Mother's Day Show Up Ride @ 9:00</i> | 12 | 13 | 14 RMC Monthly Meeting- Dinner @ 6:30, Meeting @ 7:30 @ The Red Door | 15 | 16 | 17 Armed Forces Day B-Day Dwight Hodges |
| 18 Fishtail & Nye Ride @ 9:00 | 19 | 20 | 21 Dinner Ride @ 6:00 to Whitlocks Steakhouse in Columbus | 22 B-Day Gary Frank | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Show Up Ride @ 9:00 | 26 <i>Memorial Day</i> | 27 | 28 E-Board Meeting @ 6:30 @ the Red Door | 29 | 30 B-Day Kelly Beebe | 31 |

RAINMAKER'S FAVORITE FOOD AND COFFEE STOPS

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| *Horse Trader Café, Belfry, MT | 406-664-9395 | Jim or Carol or Kim |
| *Bridger Café, Bridger, MT | 406-662-3201 | Tabitha Olson |
| Brown Bear Inn, Roberts, MT | 406-445-2318 | |
| *Busy Bee Café, Roundup, MT | 406-323-2204 | Mark Petrie, Mary or Jennie |
| *Cowtown Café, Cowley, WY | 307-548-2990 | |
| Flagstaff Café, Tensleep, WY | 307-366-2745 | |
| 4 Aces Café, Lewistown, MT | 406-538-9744 | |
| *Jersey Lilly, Ingomar, MT | 406-358-2278 | Jerry Brown, Lynn Pinkerton |
| *Lavina Café, Lavina, MT | 406-636-2112 | Judy Rogers or June |
| *Fort Custer Café, Custer, MT | 406-856-4191 | (Hilltop Café) |
| *Rails Inn, Forsyth, MT | 406-346-2242 | Carol |
| *Spring Creek Bar, Sarpy Creek, MT | 406-342-5414 | Sandra Hewitt |
| *Stockman Café, Rapelje, MT | 406-663-2231 | Gee |
| Sunset House, Cody, WY | 307-587-2257 | Julie |
| Montana Hanna's, Nye, MT | 406-328-7400 | 406-328-7373 |
| Branding Iron Restaurant, Dayton, WY | 307-655-2334 | |
| Purple Cow, Hardin, MT | 406-655-3601 | |
| Wagon Box Inn, Story, WY | 307-683-2443 | 800-301-3120 |
| Cowboy Bar & Supper Club, Fishtail, MT | 406-328-4288 | |
| Wade's Drive Inn, Harlowton, MT | 406-632-4533 | Mary Beth & Tom Bennett |
| Country Kitchen, Sheridan, WY | 307-672-8144 | Ryan Buchanan, mgr |
| Far-West Café, (Riverboat), Hardin, MT | 406-665-3317 | |
| Painter Outpost, Chief Joseph Hwy | 307-527-5510 | Kathy Oceanak or Carol Lunger |
| Uncle Sam's Eatery, Columbus, MT | 406-323-6227 | |

Dinner Ride Restaurants

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Fuddruckers Heights | 406-259-2489 |
| Laurel Country Club | 406-628-2060 |
| DJ's-Laurel | 406-628-8780 |
| Rockvale Restaurant, Rockvale, MT | 406-962-3963 |
| Grizzly Bar, Roscoe, MT | 406-328-6789 |
| Hungry Bear Café, Bearcreek, MT | 406-466-9177 |
| Next Generation Grille, Roundup, MT | 406-323-2318 |
| Brown Bear Café, Roberts, MT | 406-445-2318 |
| Crazy Mary's (Long Branch), Ballentine | 406-967-3855 |
| Apple Villiage, Columbus, MT | 406-322-5939 |
| Stroker's Supper Club, Huntley, MT | 406-348-2042 |
| Montana Hanna's, Nye, MT | 406-328-7400/406-328-7373 |
| Jade Palace, Billings | 406-656-8888 |
| 307 Bar & Casino, Columbus, MT | 406-322-4511 |
| Rockpile Restaurant, Billings | 406-245-5985 |
| Tiny's Tavern, Billings | 406-259-0828 |
| Santa Fe Red's, Billings | 406-252-2221 |
| Gusick's, Billings | 406-652-5441 |
| Whitlock's Steak House, Columbus, MT | 406-322-8677 |

