



"A Hand for the Downed Rider"

The Helping Rider

A.I.M VANCOUVER

Have a Great
2008
Ride Safe!

"HELPING INJURED RIDERS SINCE 1983"

Serving over 220,000 on-and-off road motorcyclists throughout the province, A.I.M. is a benevolent, non-profit society registered under the provincial Societies Act and holding a Federal Charitable Tax Number. A.I.M. is committed to assisting injured motorcyclists by providing legal assistance, knowledge of rights, assistance with emotional support as well as regular hospital visits and helping with aspects of recovery not covered by other agencies. It is operated solely by volunteers and relies on memberships and donations for funding.

www.aimvancouver.com

The Helping Rider

#93 ~ Winter ~ 2007

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The Helping Rider is published by the Association For Injured Motorcyclists and is free to all interested readers. Advertisements are welcome. Call for rates. Articles and letters to the editor are also welcome.

Disclaimer

Although we welcome your input, articles submitted and printed in the newsletter do not reflect the opinions of the Association For Injured Motorcyclists as a whole.

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Gabe Hill

A few months ago we got some sad news. One of our life members, Gabe Hill, has passed away. Gabe was around 70 years and all the time I knew him with his involvement with AIM as a visitation director he was a stand up guy. Any time we needed help he was there.

When we started our first chapter outside the lower mainland, in Kelowna, Gabe was there at the meetings and assisted starting up that chapter. A short time later we started the Vancouver Island chapter and Gabe was there to help them get on their feet. He always worked to make AIM a better organization.

Up until a few years ago you could expect to see Gabe come riding in to most events on his Goldwing with a cigarillo stuck in his mouth and his cheery smile.

Over the past few years we had lost touch with him but he was still thought of regularly. Gabe will be missed by many and we send our deepest condolences to his family. We are sorry for their loss. May he rest in peace while riding his bike where ever he is now.

Ted Allen

Vancouver Motorcycle Show

January 24, 25, 26, 27, 2008

Tradex Exhibition Centre

Abbotsford Airport, BC

[http://www.sportsmensshows.com/
VanCycle/](http://www.sportsmensshows.com/VanCycle/)

Thursday....Noon - 9:00 p.m.
Friday.....10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday....10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

From Highway #1 take the Mt. Lehman Rd. Exit and head South on Mt. Lehman Road. Follow the TRADEX signs on Mt. Lehman Road and turn right on Cornell Street.

GF Strong Show & Shine

August 10, 2008

Great time, hope to see you there!

**Meetings are held every Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm at the Cloverdale Library 5642
176A, Cloverdale, BC, Just off Hwy # 10...**

Nominations in October and Elections in November. All are Welcome! Rain or Shine.

The Association For Motorcyclists

The Association for Motorcyclists (A.I.M) is a Registered Non-Profit Society created in 1983 to foster the necessary measures to assist motorcycle accident victims and their families.

At present A.I.M. serves over 220,000 throughout British Columbia, with Four Chapters and one in Alberta. Total membership of over 1,000 persons. A person does not have to be a motorcyclist to be a member of A.I.M., just have the drive to assist injured motorcyclists and their families by paying a yearly membership fee.

The Vancouver Chapter of A.I.M. is a Registered Canadian Charity. Donations to the charity are utilized in accordance with the Federal Regulations and Law, to assist motorcycle accident victims and their families.

Official receipts of Income Tax for purposes for Charitable donations to A.I.M. are issued by the Vancouver Chapter, which also administers these funds to achieve the objectives of A.I.M. throughout BC.

Our services have grown from simple hospital visits to include legal, moral, and rehabilitation guidance.

If you know of a downed rider that wouldn't mind a visit from A.I.M please let us know by calling us at 604.580.0112

Some of the areas A.I.M. Addresses

Vocational

A.I.M. seeks to assist victims unable to return to their former occupation. At present, this objective is achieved by referral to existing education and rehabilitation agencies and institutions.

Morale

Member input through hospital visits, guidance, meetings and recreational activities. A.I.M. also supplies the hospital victims with reading material, TV rentals and locates specialty wheelchairs as needed.

Legal

Lawyers in the membership to give legal council and support to the individuals and the society as a whole.

Public Awareness

Helping the general public through education realize the road must be shared. Consistent with this goal, A.I.M. also assists other motorcycle organizations in promoting safety and awareness. A.I.M. also publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Helping Rider, that is mailed to our members and can also be picked up at various shops.

Directors, regional representatives and members serve the association on a volunteer basis and the directors are voted into these positions by members in good standing on a yearly basis.

Funding for A.I.M.

Is attained by the membership fees, donations and recreational activities.

Newsletter Ads - Rates!

Call

604-580-0112

PLEASE Ride SAFELY!!!

Some Benefits for the Disabled

A while back I was in a serious accident which left me disabled. Through a person I met while going to G.F. Strong Rehabilitation she informed me of some of the benefits I qualify for. This I would like to share with you all.

In the case of a motor vehicle accident, make sure you document all mileage to and from doctors, therapy offices etc. Save all receipts for parking pertaining to these doctor visits. You may also be eligible for reimbursement for your TV rental receipts, ask your lawyer if you qualify.

Save Up to \$500.00 back as a Gas Rebate from the Province

After an accident save ALL gas receipts, as you can apply for an annual gas tax rebate up to \$500.00.

These apply to anyone with a recognized disability. To get these benefits one must pick up a gas rebate form from an ICBC agent. Not all ICBC Agents have it. I had to go to 3 different ICBC locations to find this form. Take it to your Doctor, have them fill out their portion of the form and you fill out your section. Send it to the appropriate address. IF it is approved they will assign you a number and send you more forms. That number will be used when you file for your gas rebate. If you have been disabled and were not aware of this program, they will go back close to five years. But since there is a good chance you were not aware of this, you probably did not save any receipts. They will accept an estimation of how many kilometers per year. They will ask you for a notarized statement. The forms that you have to fill out are pretty basic and straightforward.

You may be eligible to receive a 25% discount off your Basic Insurance

Take the letter you received from the Province for your gas rebate with your new number assigned to you to your ICBC agent. They will apply that number to your policy which gives you the 25% discount off your basic insurance which can also be prorated to the time of your disability to a maximum of 5 years. Remember that the discount applies to your Basic Insurance only.

During my travels I did not see any advertising anywhere for these discounts and I made several inquiries.

BC Ferries

Another point of interest, you can call BC Ferries and inform them of your disability and registering your number with them allows you priority loading. Which means they are supposed to load you as close to the elevator as possible.

Between the gas and basic insurance savings, it can add up to a fair amount throughout the year, so you pay more than you have to.

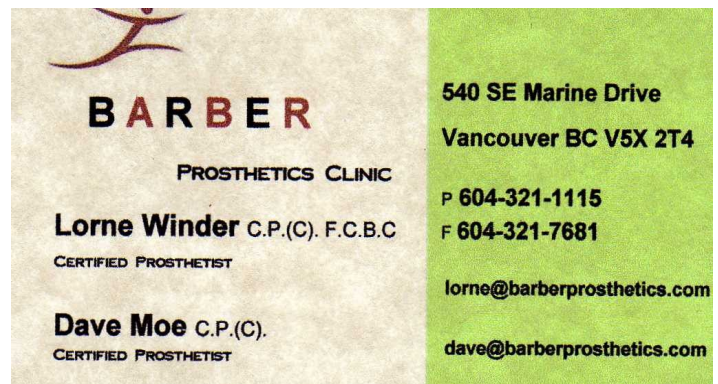
If you have any questions about these benefits call the AIM office at 604-580-0112 and leave a message for me,

Dave Munro. President

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The image shows a business card for Barber Prosthetics Clinic. The card is divided into two main sections: a light green section on the left and a white section on the right. The light green section contains the Barber logo (a stylized red and orange figure) and the text "BARBER PROSTHETICS CLINIC". Below this, it lists two certified prosthetists: "Lorne Winder C.P.(C). F.C.B.C. CERTIFIED PROSTHETIST" and "Dave Moe C.P.(C). CERTIFIED PROSTHETIST". The white section contains the address "540 SE Marine Drive Vancouver BC V5X 2T4", two phone numbers "P 604-321-1115" and "F 604-321-7681", and two email addresses: "lorne@barberprosthetics.com" and "dave@barberprosthetics.com".



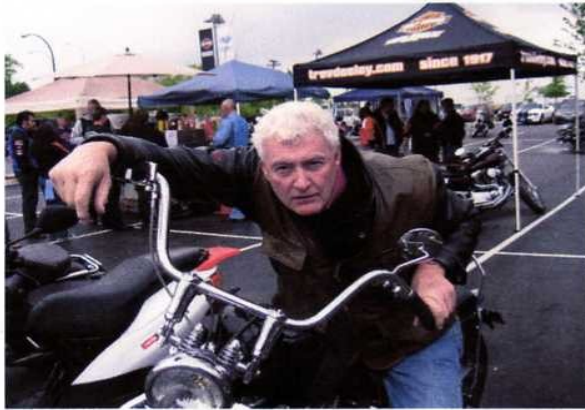
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Do you know your rights in BC? Ask us now!

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Year-end Membership Report For 2007

Here we are at the end of another year and it's been a pretty good one for the AIM, Vancouver Chapter, membership picture. We've made some changes to our record keeping and started a renewal reminder program. Together with some more aggressive membership recruiting, we were able to reach a paid-up membership total of 185. With a few renewals not yet received and members who have moved out of our area, we will end the year with 174 members in good standing. With continued effort on our part and the help of our members, we hope to break the 200 mark in 2008.

As always, we'll have our booth at the motorcycle show at the Tradex from January 24 - 27, 2008. Please stop by - renew your membership, sign up a friend, ask us for info, or just say hi. We'll look forward to seeing you.

On behalf of myself & my fellow AIM directors, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and all the best in the new year.

Greg Swallow - Membership Director

www.aimvancouver.com

2007 Visitation Report

2007 was a light year for accidents compared to previous years. The biggest reason is probably because of the rain. It rained almost every weekend this summer. It has affected the local industry: even motorcycle and custom bike/chopper sales are down.

We had a total of six riders requiring visitations this year. Three of them, all wheelchair bound, are currently in GF Strong and are still being visited.

While it has been a bad year for riding, we can take some consolation in the reduction in injured riders.

We are currently organizing a list of benefits that are available through ICBC and other organizations such as SPARC (handicapped parking permit), BC Ferries (parking next to the elevator), Provincial Government gas tax rebate, etc., which we will provide a downed rider.

This will help them negotiate the system.

We also provide a list of lawyers favorable to A.I.M. and who specialize in motorcycle accidents.

The lawyers we recommend will guide the downed rider through the insurance maze and ensure that they obtain all of the benefits available them.

We are starting a new year and can only hope the count remains low.

Ride safe.

Gary Richardson
Visitation Director

Surviving 70 mph Motorcycle Crash -- Impact Jacket's First Real-Life Saver

BALTIMORE , Oct. 11 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ --

Motorcyclist and family man, Joseph McPhatter, can return to his wife and three kids with only minor injuries after the first real-life crash incident in the United States, involving the Impact Jacket(TM) (airbag jacket) that he was wearing which saved his life.

During the last week of September 2007, Mr. McPhatter accompanied by two other riders was traveling inside the Baltimore beltway on Interstate 83 following the speed of traffic; he changed lanes only to be cut off by a driver who then hit the brakes. Mr. McPhatter plowed into the back of the car and was ejected 100 feet in the air hitting the ground at an impact rate of 140 mph.

One of his companions went over to him fearing the worst not even checking for vital signs and protecting his friend by shielding cars from his body.

Mr. McPhatter is only suffering from sore ribs/knees/bruised shoulders and a broken thumb socket. A Maryland State Trooper said to him at the hospital, "...this jacket [Impact Jacket(TM)] saved your life!"

Since 1997 motorcycle fatalities have increased by 89 percent from 2,116 to 4,008 in 2004 according to the NHTSA.

The recently released 2005 projections show motorcycle rider fatalities are expected to increase for the eighth year in a row. The increase in motorcycle rider fatalities from 2004 to 2005 as per the projections is 7.7 percent -- from 4,008 to 4,315. Recent high-profile motorcycle accidents that have occurred have reinforced the importance of wearing rider protection. The Impact Jackets(TM) will provide safety for riders, therefore providing an overall secure feeling for the riders, families and their loved ones, and in the end aiding in saving the lives of riders who are involved in accidents nationwide.

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Risk and Performance Management 2007

Whistler, B.C. Canada

In the later part of September 2007, the Motorcycle Confederation of Canada (MCC) and the British Columbia Safety Council hosted Canada's first official Motorcycle Safety Symposium called "Risk and Performance Management." The board at AIM Vancouver is concerned about the impact that motorcycling accidents have on riders, friends and families, and prevention is the key. The question remains, which is the best way to do it.

Starting off at the new Trev Deeley's Motorcycle dealership on Boundary (which if you have not toured their new in-store museum you definitely have something to look forward to) the ride headed north up the scenic Sea to Sky highway towards Whistler BC. There were unfortunately very little opportunities to enjoy the scenery on this ride, way too much road construction for that, but there was lots of time to spend in 50 km/h traffic to contemplate the importance of safety, because even simple hazards in the form of potholes, gravel and traffic congestion seemed to be much more abundant than usual.

At the two-day symposium beginning early on September 27, 2007 the room was filled with interested stakeholders from almost every walk of motorcycle riding-life that had an interest in which direction motorcycle safety should turn, including Harley-Davidson Motorcycles, Federation of European Motorcycle Associations (FEMA), Honda, I.C.B.C., R.C.M.P., Motorcycle & Moped Industry Council (MMIC), Avon Tires, Surrey Fire & Rescue, BC Ministry of Transportation, Riding Instructors, Book Authors, interested Motorcycle Enthusiasts and others. The participants heard about accident statistics, horrendous accident investigations, accident reconstruction, equipment inadequacies, riding theories, programs, unique road rules for motorcycles (or lack thereof), high-tech prevention equipment, road designs and barriers, simulator, performance capabilities outweighing rider abilities, and heart-wrenching testimonials from family members who have lost loved ones which caused the strongest willed bikers in the room to fight back the tears. The message was clear; too many people are dying on motorcycles and there seemed to be no quick and easy answers to mitigate the situation. There were however some clear indicators that were more prominent: alcohol, other inattentive road users, road hazards and conditions, rider inexperience with respects to the individual riders' own capabilities and limitations within those conditions, as well as those of their individual machine.

The BC Safety Council has mentioned that it will be making a CD with the information contributed to the event available for purchase at a later date. Meanwhile you can check out websites such as www.fema.ridersrights.org and see what they have to say on their "Green Paper for Urban Transport." There is information on how European countries are creating road rules to enhance motorcycle use and safety by utilizing their unique potential as commuting vehicles in congested urban areas, much like we deal with in Metro Vancouver. Or you may wish to look at the safety direction that the USA would like to go at this website, <http://www.nhtsa.gov/motorcycles/index.cfm>. Thankfully, we are one of two provinces in Canada that have a motorcycle advocacy group that goes to bat for our rights as motorcyclists, any ideas you may have to improve motorcycle safety in British Columbia can be sent to BCCOM, they will make sure your views are heard. You can find BCCOM's website at <http://www.bccom-bc.com/>

The location of the event seemed to be a main deterrent for many attendees, road construction, costs, dates (the event was held during the day on weekdays) and accessibility for the majority of riders are things that should be considered for revision the next time this event is held in our area. Richmond, Langley, Surrey or even Vancouver may have been a more appropriate choice to make sure more riders participate and attend the event. For 2008 the event will be held in Ontario, it is scheduled for mid-September in the Ottawa/Gatineau area, so it could be two or three years before returning to our area. It will be interesting to see what direction motorcycle safety will take by that time.

The results of the event are yet to be seen, but it is clear there are many different ways that the roadway to safety in Metro Vancouver could take. Meanwhile, know your machine, learn to handle it with confidence, be responsible with your actions and ride like those other cars can't see you. With respect to AIM, it is our hope that there will be fewer motorcyclists injured on our roadways and more riders enjoying the wealth of the freedom and benefits that motorcycling brings to us as Canadians. It is my personal hope, when new rules are considered that they will take into account the unique abilities of motorcycles to safely operate as a commuting vehicle in congested urban areas by having their own unique rules. I hope to see you all out at the Vancouver Motorcycle Show January 24-27, 2008 at the Tradex Centre in Abbotsford, BC. Drop by the AIM both and say hi, and while you're there, enter for a chance to win a custom motorcycle jacket from Linda's Leathers, her website is www.leathersbylinda.com

Ride Free, Don't Judge.

Joe Pyringer
Vice President

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More Notes on the Motorcycle Safety Conference at Whistler

This was a three day conference sponsored by the B. C. Safety Council and the Motorcycle Confederation of Canada (MCC) which was held near the end of September at Whistler and was attended by delegates from various motorcycle associations and interested parties.

Unfortunately, BCCOM did not have a delegate in attendance. A.I.M. had two delegates there: Joe Pyringer (our new Vice President) and Craig Heale (repeat Visitation Co-Director). Joe made a sophisticated presentation on behalf of A.I.M. with many recommendations which is worth perusing. He also took notes and provided input to the various workshops throughout the conference. Craig also provided considerable input, asking lots of questions at the various workshops and taking numerous pictures.

The following is an excerpt from Craig Heale:

The safety conference at Whistler featured numerous speakers from the police and regulatory backgrounds, along with two women who lost their teenage sons in bike accidents very shortly after acquiring their licenses. The points studied mainly involved improving the training for new riders and reducing the risk to them. Most of the western world uses either cc or horsepower restrictions for new riders, but if these were implemented here (no small bikes imported) it could destroy the market. Harley suggests power to weight ratio, not motor or bike size. In the end, decisions can not be made without adequate stats, which we don't have here in Canada. We have to use those produced in the USA or Europe which are slightly different markets. For example, here in BC the police accident reports do not record model or type of bike, so we just speculate that sport bikes crash more – we don't have the actual data.

This was the first time a national Safety Symposium has been held in Canada and the B.C. Safety Council and the MCC deserve credit for taking this on. It is important that A.I.M. was invited to attend and was able to provide input.

Gary Richardson
Visitation Director

**Meetings are held every Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm at the Cloverdale Library 5642 176A,
Cloverdale, BC, Just off Hwy # 10 All are Welcome! Rain or Shine!**

British Columbia
BCCOM
Coalition of Motorcyclists

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Please keep in mind that this will apply to motorcyclists too.

High-risk drivers could pay thousands more

ICBC is putting BC's high-risk drivers on notice to clean up their driving or pay more.

The warning comes after the BC Utilities Commission's (BCUC) recent approval of ICBC's proposal to target high-risk drivers, charging them hundreds and in some cases thousands of dollars more each year.

"High-risk drivers are currently not paying enough given the risk they pose on the roads. Charging bad drivers more is one way that ICBC is working to keep rates low and stable for safer drivers," said Paul Taylor, ICBC's president and CEO.

The new Driver Risk Premium will apply to offences that occur on or after January 1, 2008. Beginning in January 2009, drivers who have motor vehicle convictions, roadside suspensions, and/or a Criminal Code driving-related conviction will pay a Driver Risk Premium. Bad drivers have to pay the additional annual premium for up to three years.

High-risk drivers - those who engage in activities like excessive speed, drinking and driving, running red lights and other forms of dangerous driving - have a crash rate of more than twice that of other BC drivers.

Approximately 120,000 drivers - about five percent of the province's licensed drivers - will soon receive warning letters from ICBC. The letters are being sent to drivers whose past driving experience would result in an additional Driver Risk Premium if their bad driving habits continue into the future.

The Driver Risk Premium is tied to the driver's licence and will have to be paid regardless of whether the driver owns or insures a vehicle. The additional premium will be paid on top of the yearly cost of auto insurance, with those with Criminal Code convictions paying the most.

"The Driver Risk Premium targets those drivers who are most likely to get into crashes which have a direct impact on claims costs," said Taylor. "The new premium holds drivers more accountable for their actions on our roads and the revenue generated will be used to offset premiums for good drivers."

Drivers who receive a Criminal Code conviction, like impaired driving or dangerous driving, will be the hardest hit with an annual Driver Risk Premium of \$905, adding up to \$2,715 over three years. Drivers with multiple convictions will pay even more.

The new program will also identify and penalize those drivers who show a history of high-risk driving habits. An example of this would be a driver who receives three speeding tickets over a three-year period. That driver would have to pay an additional premium of \$350 annually.

The Driver Risk Premium will be phased in over three years so that eventually the annual scan will include three full years of a driving record. The Driver Penalty Point program will be phased out over the same three-year period and replaced with the Driver Risk Premium. The two programs will run parallel during that time and drivers with penalty points will pay the higher of the two premiums.

www.aimvancouver.com

Some Web pages for Riders

<http://www.cmdra.com/>

<http://www.motorcycling.ca/index.html>

<http://www.bccom-bc.com/index.html>

<http://www.gvmc.ca/index.asp>

<http://www.beltdrivebetty.com/joomla07/index.php>

<http://www.toadrockcampground.com/index.php>

<http://www.bustedknucklenews.com>

http://bikersmag.com/html/canadian_bikers.html

<http://members.tripod.com/~Jinksd/CanMotorcyclelink.html> ← Motorcycling Links

<http://groups.msn.com/BikersfromBC/welcometobikersfrombc.msnu>

<http://www.650cisl.com/shows/507616> ← Listen to Rolling Thunder Radio Show
Monday nights 8 PM They have been seen at most Motorcycle Events all summer long!

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The Ferrari vs the Scooter

A hip young man goes out and buys a 2007 Ferrari 360 Spider. It is the best convertible sports car, costing about \$250,000. He takes it out for a spin and while stopping for a red light, an old man on a scooter, wearing an open face crash helmet (looking about 70 years old) pulls up next to him. The old man looks over the sleek, shiny red surface of the car and asks, "What kind of car ya' got there, sonny?"

The young man replies, "A 2007 Ferrari 360 Spider. They cost about a quarter of a million dollars!" "That's a lot of money," says the old man, shocked. "Why does it cost so much?" "Because this car can do over 200 miles an hour!" states the cool dude proudly.

The scooter driver asks, "Can I take a look inside?" "Sure," replies the owner. So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Leaning back on his scooter, the old man says, "That's a pretty nice car, all right!"

Just then the light changes so the guy decides to show the old man what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 220 mph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer! He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly, whhhooooosshhh! Something whips by him, going much faster! "What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari?!" the young man asks himself.

Then, ahead of him, he sees a dot coming toward him. Whoooooosh! It goes by again, heading the opposite direction! And it almost looked like the old man on the scooter!

"Couldn't be," thinks the guy. "How could a scooter outrun a Ferrari?!" Again, he sees a dot in his rear view mirror! Whoooooosh Ka-BbblaMMM! The scooter plows into the back of his car, demolishing the rear end. The young man jumps out, and it IS the old man!!! Of course, the scooter and the old man are hurting for certain.

He runs up to the old man and says, "You gotta tell me how you got that thing to go faster than my Ferrari !!" The old man looks up and replies, "OK..., but first, unhook my suspenders from your rear-view mirror, will ya?"

2008 Boogie Bash Info Coming soon,

<http://www.aimcaninterior.com/boogiebash/index.htm>



Association for Injured Motorcyclists

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Hwy # 10 All are Welcome! Rain
or Shine!

Whether you are an accident victim or a sincerely interested party, please take our appeal earnestly. We are serious about our livelihood. **WE NEED YOU!** ... Become a member and give us support for effective representation on all matters of concern to Injured Motorcyclists.

Name: _____ Ph: _____ Cell: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Return this application with your payment to the address above. Make checks payable to
Association for Injured Motorcyclists

 VISA ONLY please

 Expiry

 Signature

OFFICE USE

- Receipt
- Cash
- Computer
- Cheque #
- VISA only

 DATE

 Initial

- Would you like to Volunteer?
- Would you like info by Email
- Single Membership \$20.00
- Couple Membership \$30.00
- Club Membership \$30.00