



“A Hand for the Downed Rider”

The Helping Rider

A.I.M VANCOUVER

129-130 Winter/Spring 2016-7

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Find us on **facebook** Search Classic Bike Swap Meet
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WWW.CLASSICBIKESWAPMEET.COM

AIM Volunteers will be out an about at different events throughout the Lower Mainland as always happy to see you and with lots of info or stories.

If you have a change of address, please email us with the new info at info@aimvancouver.com

As always, many events will be posting their info so keep an eye on the Calendar of Events at www.aimvancouver.com

The 3rd Annual Burnaby RCMP Motorcycle Safety Skill Challenge. More on Page 7 for those that are interested in checking out their riding skills.

Just before I start my bike, I follow my instincts. If I have a weird feeling, I wait till the Feeling is gone and I have a “Knowing” that it will be an awesome ride for all of us there and safely back home. Worked well for me for over 45 years. What do you do when you have that “feeling”?

“HELPING INJURED RIDERS SINCE 1983”

Serving over 250,000 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.

Ride like you are Invisible, Ride Defensively!



The Helping Rider

#129-130~Winter/Spring~ 2016/17

Vancouver A.I.M.

#37 - 13320 116th Ave,

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info@aimvancouver.com

The Helping Rider is published by
The Association For Injured Motorcyclists
Vancouver Chapter

Free to all interested readers.

Advertisements are welcome.

Articles and letters to the editor are also
welcome.

CHAPTERS

Vancouver Island, BC

Northern (Prince George BC)

Please forward to Vancouver address

A.I.M. Interior

P.O. Box 2152 Station "R"

Kelowna, B.C. V1X 4K6

<http://www.aiminteriorbc.org/>

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A.I.M. Meets

Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm

ABC Country Restaurant

15373 Fraser Highway Surrey, BC

All are Welcome! Rain or Shine!

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Size	\$ per Issue	\$ per 4 issues
1/8 of page (B card)	60	200
1/4 page	120	420
1/2 page	240	900

Disclaimer

We welcome your input, articles printed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Association For Injured Motorcyclists Events, posters, and other information presented within this Newsletter are, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate; although we make a genuine effort to provide accurate information about third party events, you are ultimately responsible for verifying the information to rule out the possibility of errors, omissions, and unexpected changes or cancellations. -Thank you!

Distracted Driving Kills

Motorcyclists are vulnerable on the road due to the lack of a physical shell around the rider. This makes motor cycling riding risky and statistically you are more likely to be injured while riding a motor cycle than while riding in a car.

In BC distracted driving is becoming one of the most significant causes of injuries and deaths on our roads and for motorcyclists it means that distracted driving is becoming one of the most significant risk factors you face while on the road. ICBC reports that distracted driving is responsible for an average of 78 deaths on our roads each year.

Distracted driving is responsible for more than one quarter of all car crash fatalities in BC. The most common type of distracted driving is the use of a cell phone to either talk, text or do some other activity, while you are driving. Studies by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that you are five times more likely to crash if you are on your phone. If you are looking at your phone, you can't see the road.

Not only is distracted driving risky behavior, it is also illegal. The *Motor Vehicle Act* prohibits the use of an electronic device while driving or operating a motor vehicle on a highway. Police in BC have increased enforcement of distracted driving laws and as of June 1, 2016 the fines and penalties for distracted driving have significantly increased.



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*Financial
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A first offense will cost you \$368 in fines and four penalty points or another \$175. Fines and penalties dramatically increase with subsequent offenses.

Distracted driving is risky behavior that affects us all. It significantly increases the potential of being injured while using our roads, particularly for motorcyclists. The devastation that follows injury impacts everyone around the injured person and the costs associated with accidents is high.

Distracted driving is now responsible for more motor vehicle deaths than impaired driving. We can all work together to stop distracted driving. Understand the risks and dangers of driving distracted. Understand the increased police enforcement which is occurring and the significant fines and penalties that you will face for breaking the law. Take steps to educate those around you of the risks and come up with strategies and behaviors to prevent distracted driving.

The BC Coalition to End Distracted Driving has launched a public awareness campaign to encourage British Columbians to commit to being "present" while driving, always. Distracted Driving Kills (www.distracteddrivingkills.ca) is an initiative to create awareness about the dangers of distracted driving on BC Roads.

Check out their website and some of the stories about the lives that have been destroyed due to distracted driving. Eliminating this danger will only happen with all of us working together to ensure that everyone understands that distracted driving is not OK and not something that will be supported or tolerated. Help keep all of us safe on our roads by making sure that you and your loved ones are not driving distracted.

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Rider went down??? Call us at 604-580-0112 with full name and hospital if you know it.

The Piston Return Spring ... Without it, the internal combustion engine would be nothing!

By Gary Richardson—Visitation Director

And without AIM, the downed rider would be without the service they so desperately need - moral, legal, insurance, camaraderie - a little help from their friends.

AIM provides a necessary service to the motorcycle community. And we help every downed rider, membership is not required. We are staffed by volunteers, no one gets paid for the work they do on behalf of AIM. We all just want to help our fellow riders.

However, not all of our volunteers do hospital visits. Many perform other necessary functions to maintain AIM. These include fulfilling various positions on the Board of Directors and helping out at various functions that we attend in order to raise funds and spread the word of AIM. To that end, a review of our activities this last year of 2016 is in order.

We started with the Vancouver Motorcycle Show in January which was hugely successful for us. We sold a lot of memberships and raised our profile among riders. Red's Garage Sale and Swap Meet was at Trev Deeley Motorcycles.

We held our SPRING DANCE in March, our third, and did well there. It was great seeing all the friendly faces and everyone seemed to have a good time.

May we pitched our tent out in front of the Cloverdale venue of Todd Copan's 30 Annual Classic & Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet and later joined in BCCOM's 25th Annual MLA Ride to Victoria. Also in May was the GF Strong Recreation Resource Fair where we spread the word and we were invited back for the second year at the Burnaby RCMP Motorcycle Safety Skills Challenge with two courses: "new riders" and "experienced". As well, we attended the West-coast Motorcycle Ride-to-Live & Classic Vehicle

Show & Shine at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds behind the Fraser Downs racetrack.

June saw us at Trev Deeley's 20th Annual Show n Shine and subsequently at the Vancouver Vintage Motorcycle Show & Shine also at Deeleys.

In July we went to the 3rd Annual Squamish Motorcycle Festival, the Spit-n-Shine Vintage & Custom Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet, Whalleys' Corners Community Festival, and of course, the 28th Annual Boogie Bash put on by AIM Interior Chapter at Rock Creek.

Con't next page



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The Greater Vancouver Motorcycle Club
For the Betterment of Motorcycling



**JOIN US FOR THE 25TH ANNUAL
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"RIDE FOR THE KIDS"**



Join us for a day of riding, delicious food, silent auction, draws and most importantly, supporting a very worthwhile cause.

Date: Sunday, May 7th, 2017
Place: GVMC Club House - Unit 307 - 9785 192nd Street, Surrey
Time: 9:00am Breakfast

Come early for a GVMC Pancake & Sausage Breakfast \$5.00
10:00 - 11:00am SIGN-UP / \$25 per person (cars welcome!)

Enjoy a great ride and help kids with Burn Injuries!

All proceeds benefit the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund



www.burnfund.org

For more information contact:
Ron Gaudette rwgaudette@telus.net

www.gvmc.ca

August was a busy month. We hosted our Piece de Resistance - our GF Strong Ride-In Show-n-Shine, a great family event with games for all and face painting for the children. We went to Trev Deeley's Summer "Hogust" Party. We worked the 5th Annual Vintage In The Valley Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet and attended the Lords of Gastown Strong & Free Show & Shine.

We helped out at the CMDRA Motorcycle Drag Races in Mission in September and in October the Vancouver Toy Run, Trev Deeley's Toy Run Afterburner Party, and the Fraser Valley Toy Run kept us busy as well as the 4th Annual Urge Tattoos Ink & Ride in Victoria.

Our 4th dance, now called the A.I.M. HELL RAISERS DANCE was held in November and again was a success.

It was not, however, all fun. Unfortunately we lost some good riders. Dennis Scott who was on our Board of Directors and a staunch supporter succumbed to cancer. Ernie Dau, Executive Director of BCCOM and on the AIM Board of Directors died from an accident. Both were dedicated to our cause and we miss them.

It has been a busy year and yet rewarding for us at the same time. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month (except December) at the ABC restaurant, 101-15373 Fraser Highway, Surrey, BC. Look forward to seeing you there.



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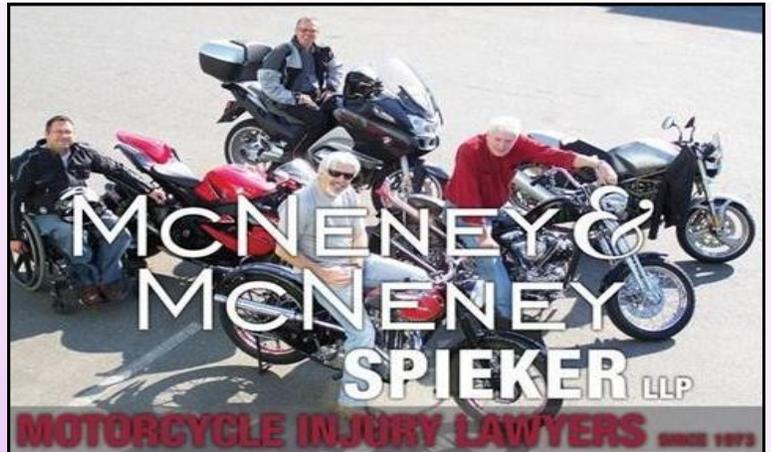
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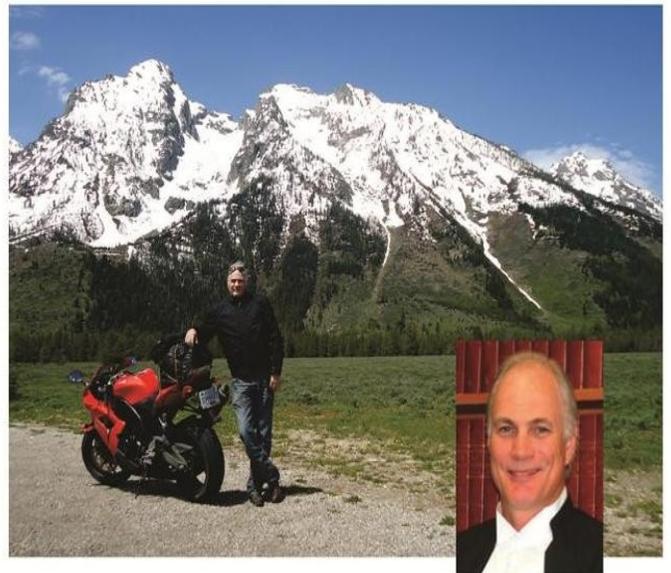
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Calendar of Events is constantly updated at
<http://www.aimvancouver.com/calendar/list.pl>

April 2017

April 21, 2017 to April 23, 2017 - **BC Classic & Custom Car & Bike Show** - BC Classic & Custom Car & Bike Show [full printable version]

Fri-Sun @ Tradex, Abbotsford. 21st anniversary. Over 250 Specialty Vehicles. Live entertainment. Beer gardens. Fuel & Fire Nitro dragsters. Jet Funny Car "Fire-Up". Burn Out contest. Feature celebrities. Custom cars and bikes. Gene's Chop Shop. Commercial vendor displays. Meet Dave Kindig (Bitchin' Rides TV show) and Roger Goldammer (3x World Champion Custom Bike Builder) www.bccustomcarshow.com or 604-539-7223

April 22, 2017 - **14th Annual Mount Vernon Motorcycle Swap Meet** - 8am - 3pm @ Skagit County Fairgrounds, Mount Vernon, Wash. This event is held in conjunction with The North Cascades Street Rod Club's Annual Antique Car and Truck Swap Meet. Bike Show Marquee Featuring: "VINTAGE Harley-Davidson". Contact (Daytime 9 AM to 3) PM: Mark Cattarin at 360-223-3190 for information. E-mail: marcuscc@comcast.net.

April 23, 2017 - **31st Annual Classic & Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet** - Sunday @ Agriplex Building on the Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 17798 - 62nd Ave., Surrey, BC. Enjoy the Vintage Marques, some in pristine condition. Huge inventory of parts for swapping. Vendors, too. Enter your vintage bike for judging. Info line: 604-299-0020 or (cell: 604-313-4394) or www.ClassicBikeSwapMeet.com or twitter: @cbsm_ca. or info@classicbikeswapmeet.com. Find us on Facebook, search Classic Bike Swap Meet; join the conversation using #CBSM17.

May 2017

May 4, 2017 - **GF Strong Recreation Resource Fair** - 2:30 - 5:00pm @ GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre, 4255 Laurel Street, Vancouver, BC. This Recreation Resource Fair will have Accessibility and Inclusion representatives from some of the local cities, as well as not-for-profit organizations that support individuals with disabilities, and adapted recreation service providers along with individuals sharing knowledge or displaying equipment that allows more people to live an active, healthy lifestyle through recreation and leisure. Learn about different recreational programs and equipment available. Everything from biking to skiing. Contact Mark Houlden @ 604-714-4156

May 7, 2017 - **25th Annual GVMC Ride For The Kids** - Sunday - 9am pancake breakfast (\$5) - @ GVMC Club House, Unit # 397 - 9785 - 192nd St., Surrey, BC. Join us for a day of riding, delicious food, silent auction, draws and to support a worthwhile cause. 10-11am sign-up; \$ 25 per person; cars also welcome. All proceeds benefit the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. Ron Gaudette: rwgaudette@telus.net; www.gvmc.ca; www.burnfund.org.

May 13, 2017 - **3rd Annual Burnaby RCMP Motorcycle Safety Skill Challenge** - Saturday @ North parking lot of Burnaby Lake Rugby Club located at 3760 Sperling Ave., Burnaby, BC. All makes welcome. Contact: Constable D. Arseneault - 604-294-7922; denis.arseneault@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

May 18, 2017 - **A.I.M. MONTHLY MEETING** - Every third Thursday @ 7:00 pm at the ABC Restaurant, 101 - 15373 Fraser Highway, Surrey, BC. 604-580-0112; info@aimvancouver.com;

May 20, 2017 - **31st All British Field Meet - VanDusen Botanical Garden** - Saturday, 10am - 4:30pm, @ VanDusen Botanical Garden, 37th Ave. & Oak St., Vancouver, BC. An eclectic showing of British built classic cars & motorcycles. Swapmeet, Vendors, Food Trucks, live 32-piece brass band, .

May 28, 2017 - **Ride to Live Classic Vehicle Show & Shine (Vancouver & Fraser Valley)** - Sunday @ 10am - 3pm @ University of The Fraser Valley, 33844 King Road, Abbotsford. Poker run, show & shine, pancake breakfast, barbeque lunch, live music, celebrity riders. Raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer - the number one cancer for men. Steve Williams: 604-240-9610 or www.ridetolive.ca.

June 2017

June 3, 2017 - **Castaways Poker Run** - 10am - Saturday - @ Hazelmere RV Park, 18843 - 8th Ave., Surrey, BC. \$25; pre-buy tickets @ \$20. Includes burger, music at finish. Camping available Friday and Saturday nights @ \$10 per person.

June 15, 2017 - **A.I.M. MONTHLY MEETING** - Every third Thursday @ 7:00 pm at the ABC Restaurant, 101 - 15373 Fraser Highway, Surrey, BC. 604-580-0112; info@aimvancouver.com;

June 17, 2017 - **Brendan's Ride for Easter Seals** - Saturday. Cruise up the Sea to Sky Hwy, then participate in the Show n' Shine at Camp Squamish. \$30 registration includes event t-shirt, breakfast at The Henry in Cloverdale. Open to motorcycles and classic cars. Lunch provided by Sammy J's Grill & Bar and live entertainment from Karen Lee Batten; Show n' Shine, 50/50, silent auction. Info: www.brendensride.com or <http://www.eastersealsbcy.ca/?PageID=1119> or Connie Silas, 604-873-1865 (Ext. 423).

July 2017

July 1, 2017 to July 2, 2017 - **Vintage Motorcycle Canyon Run** - Sat-Sun. Saturday: 9am leave from Highway 1, Exit 104-Cultus lake @ 39980 S. Parallel Road, Abbotsford; finish @ Cayoosh Campground, Lillooet, BC. Sunday: leave Cayoosh Campground & end up where you started @ 39980 S. Parallel Road, Abbotsford. Details & Registration: contact@canyonrun.ca or visit: www.canyonrun.ca.

July 13, 2017 to July 15, 2017 - **Thompson Rivers Run: 2017 Western Regional H.O.G. Rally** - Check it out on facebook.

July 20, 2017 - **A.I.M. MONTHLY MEETING** - Every third Thursday @ 7:00 pm at the ABC Restaurant, 101 - 15373 Fraser Highway, Surrey, BC. 604-580-0112; info@aimvancouver.com; <http://www.aimvancouver.com>

July 30, 2017 to August 3, 2017 - **Geezers on Wheezers** - Sun-Thur @ Vegreville, Alberta. Ride the Iron Horse Trail along an old railroad bed in northeastern Alberta. This event is geared to the oldest bikes and frail-est riders. There will be a follow-up vehicle to provide transport of camping and personal gear and for bike pick-up. Rain or shine; ends back in Vegreville. CVMG event. To Register: Hans or Mary Ann Van Huystee Phone: 780 462 1842 or e-mail: b1953@telusplanet.net

<http://www.aimvancouver.com/news/> in color!

CASTAWAYS

**Poker Run
June 3 - 2017**



**Registration
10am - 11am
Ride out 11am**

**Start & Finish
Hazelmere RV Park
18843 - 8th Ave
Surrey, BC Canada**

**Poker run \$25
Pre-buy your Tickets only \$20
Includes a Burger, Music at the finish
Camping available Friday and Saturday nights
\$10 per night per person**

OLD FART PRIDE

I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only old fart receiving it. Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see.

- Old Farts are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the National Anthem. Old Farts remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.
- Old Farts remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam.
- If you bump into an Old Fart on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an Old Fart on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Farts trust strangers and are courtly to women.
- Old Farts hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.
- Old Farts get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.
- Old Farts have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.
- It's the Old Farts who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Farts with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values.

We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old Farts!

Pass this on to all the "Old Farts" you know. I was taught to respect my elders. It's just getting harder to find them

Enjoy Riding Everyone!!!!!!

Be Safe and Wear your Motorcycle Gear



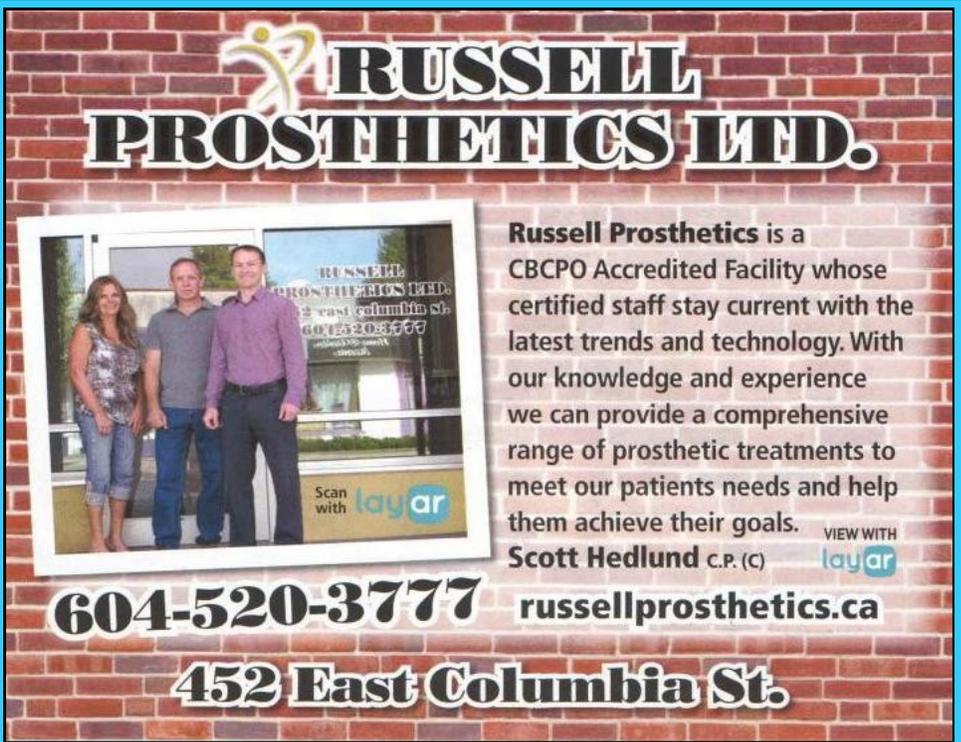
**CANADIAN MOTORCYCLE
DRAG RACING ASSOCIATION**

Dates	Track	Location
JUNE 24-25	BADLANDS NATIONALS	MEDICINE HAT, AB
JULY 8-9	SUMMER NATIONALS	RIMBEY, AB
AUGUST 12-13	NORTHERN NATIONALS	PRINCE GEORGE, BC
SEPTEMBER 9-10	OIL CITY NATIONALS	EDMONTON, AB
SEPTEMBER 23-24	SEASON FINALS	MISSION, BC

Normally 4 Issues per year

We apologize for not having the winter issue of the AIM newsletter out last January. On a good note it saved \$\$ to put elsewhere.

A Big thanks to Peter @ Sure Copy Center for the Quick and Efficient Service on all Services for AIM. Peter has been outstanding! Especially our last minute requests :(Chris



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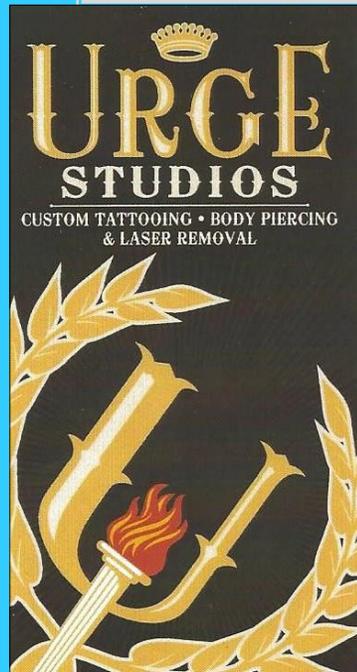
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THE WESTERN FRONT

By Patrick Lambie

Riders in BC are fortunate to have the Association for Injured Motorcyclists (AIM) on their side

For most of us, January is a time when we reflect on the adventures of the last 365 days and start to make plans for the New Year and the riding season that awaits us. However, for motorcyclists who have had the misfortune of being involved in an accident during 2016, the transition from one year to the next may not be as simple. While most of us can simply close the door on last year and move on to the new one, the same can't be said for individuals and their families dealing with physical, financial and legal issues from motorcycle accidents.

In 1983, having experienced first-hand the difficulties that accompany a motorcycle accident, four riders in British Columbia came up with an idea that would ultimately become the Association for Injured Motorcyclists (AIM).

From the original founding members—Ed Bell, Al Walker, Ray Leadbetter and Skip Stuart—AIM has grown to over 1,000 members dedicated to providing assistance to any one of BC's more than 220,000 motorcyclists in times of need.

Exactly what does AIM do to help riders who have been injured in a motorcycle accident? In order to obtain some insight into this question, I recently spent some time with the association's president, Dave Munro.

As Dave explains, one of the principal goals of the association is to make sure that an injured rider receives the information they need to make decisions and be aware of their rights within the legal, healthcare and insurance systems as they deal with the aftermath of an accident. This is typically done through in-person hospital visits. "Most of the time we work to answer questions that they have of what is going to transpire as things move forward," says Munro. "Unfortunately people are often classified as a number and they don't always receive the information that is going to help them, so we go in to see what they need." Undertaking this type of initiative requires a substantial knowledge base, and AIM is fortunate to have a number of lawyers included in their membership as well as relationships with education and rehabilitation agencies.

In developing its program, AIM made sure to address the reality that the long-term impact of an accident can extend beyond the injured party. "If a person is hurt pretty bad with permanent injuries, we try to work with the family and help them work through what they can expect and what kind of adjustments they are going to need to make, and inform them about programs that are available to help them," adds Munro. "There are a lot of programs that the government has that people don't know about that are there to help people in these types of situations."

In addition to providing information and access to resources,

AIM also provides other forms of assistance to Injured riders, such as offering to transport the damaged motorcycle and, in certain circumstances, providing short-term financial assistance.

Of course, the best way to address accidents is to prevent them in the first place, and AIM dedicates a great deal of time and energy to promoting public awareness at events throughout British Columbia, as well as publishing quarterly newsletters. Helping riders work through the aftermath of being injured on a motorcycle provides AIM with insight into emerging trends of what is causing the accidents. "We do see more accidents lately, especially in the last few years, of bikes hitting bikes," Munro cites as an example. "If a person is not paying attention when they are riding staggered, it is easier to hit the person in front of them."

AIM believes that providing this type of information to riders is critical to ensuring that roadways remain safe for motorcyclists. In addition to awareness campaigns targeting riders, Munro also highlights the efforts directed at ensuring that lawmakers and Insurance providers are proactively informed of the issues facing riders in the province. "We have held one-on-one meetings with the Solicitor General's office as well as the head officials of ICBC (the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia)," he notes.

Making the work of this group even more impressive is the fact that it is a registered non-profit organization, 100 percent operated by volunteers and funded solely by donations and advertising revenues generated by its newsletters.

AIM would welcome the opportunity to expand beyond British Columbia, but Munro is also realistic that this is dependent on volunteers coming forward to open and operate new chapters.

The reality is that, despite all of our planning and preparation, we can't predict what is around the next corner. And while you will hopefully never need the services of AIM, it is comforting to know that someone is looking out for you. For anyone wanting to support the efforts of AIM financially or by volunteering your time, a great place to start is the AIM website at www.aimvancouver.com.

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Inside Motorcycles Magazine
See "About" page 11



BARBER

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We would like to say a Big Thank You for the Article Patrick wrote and Inside Motorcycle published. (Page 10) From their "About"

Inside Motorcycles Magazine

Since 1998, Inside Motorcycles has been "Canada's Source for Motorcycle News." With its in-depth coverage of the Canadian motorcycle industry, Inside Motorcycles has become an indispensable resource for riders and racing enthusiasts across the country.

Published 10 times a year, Inside Motorcycles is on top of all the latest industry developments, both in Canada and internationally. The latest models and accessories are reviewed every issue by an experienced and respected stable of road test editors who bring their extensive motorcycling backgrounds to the forefront.

Inside Motorcycles boasts this country's foremost moto-journalists in every issue, including Colin Fraser, Larry Tate and Andrew Trevitt, all of whom bring decades of journalistic experience to the magazine. Road tests, touring rides, international destination stories and competition coverage are accented with opinion columns and tech articles. She Rides is a new

regular feature dedicated to female riders. Each issue of Inside Motorcycles includes stories from the road - tours and riding adventures featuring destinations from both Canada and around the world. Some stories may inspire readers to follow a similar path; others may be so dramatic that just reading about them provides enough of a thrill.

Riding the 'vintage is cool' wave, vintage coverage in Inside Motorcycles has increased significantly as of late. In addition to our regular Rapid Classics feature, which profiles the motorcycles and racers of yesteryear, Inside Motorcycles also regularly covers the Vintage Road Racing Association. To top it off our annual Nostalgia Issue, dedicated to all things vintage and retro, has become a favourite with our readers.

Every issue of Inside Motorcycles is full of dynamic photography, highlighted by the ZOOM photo spreads at the front of the magazine and other features that reflect all the colour and vibrancy that the sport of motorcycling offers.

<http://insidemotorcycles.com/>



ASSOCIATION FOR INJURED MOTORCYCLISTS
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WWW.AIMVANCOUVER.COM



Whether you are an accident victim or a sincerely interested party, all help is greatly appreciated in this endeavor. All of AIM'S funds come from Memberships and Donations. WE NEED YOU! ... Become a member and give us support for effective representation on all matters of concern to Injured Motorcyclists.

Name: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ P/C: _____

Ph: _____ Email: _____

Please return this application with your payment to the address above.

Make checks payable to (A.I.M.)
Association for Injured Motorcyclists
Thank you for your Support!

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OFFICE USE		



2016 Visitation Report

"We understand that riding motorcycles is not about safety, it's about managing risk." - Sergeant Mark Pope, California Highway Patrol

Another year has closed and from a downed rider perspective it has been busy. By the end of the year we will have done roughly 150 Visitations, helped over 40 riders and a dozen family members. As of this writing (November 6, 2016) we are still visiting six downed riders either in hospital, at GF Strong Rehab Centre, or at home.

Surprisingly, we had five riders with amputations, four of them being their leg. In fact, the majority of our downed riders sustained injury most commonly to their legs. The legs seem to get the worst of it; perhaps the weight of the motorcycle traps them.

Statistically, we have had a large number of Single Vehicle Accidents (SVA), some due to road conditions but difficult to prove without witnesses.

We also had a high proportion of left-hand turning cars colliding with oncoming motorcycles. These are avoidable and are inexcusable as the driver of the car is not looking before they pull out in the path of the motorcyclist.

And the excuse "I didn't see him/her" doesn't cut it as all motorcycles are wired so that the headlight is on all times when the ignition switch is on. They just didn't bother looking. In most of the cases, the police had advised the motorcyclist that it was the car driver's fault.

Not an eye-opener for us though as we are used to that.

Another surprise this year was the large number of downed riders who live in the upper Fraser Valley. Fortunately, we have Visitation Volunteers who live there and they were able to visit those riders.

We helped various downed riders who were in a tight spot financially while in hospital and upon discharge. Many downed riders have no wage loss coverage where they work and need help. This, of course, is our mandate. We also look to see if anyone needs a little help over the Christmas season, as we usually do.

Recognition and appreciation goes to our Visitation Volunteers who gladly visited and cheered up our downed riders. Last November we held a training course and certified a number of Visitation Volunteers and they all worked diligently this year. Each one brings different skills "to the table" and made our Visitation program a success. And this year we had enough Visitation Volunteers to cover all the downed riders.

But, we can always use more. The work is rewarding and it is nice to work with others with the same goals and agenda. As Winston Churchill so aptly said: *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

So, if you are so inclined, phone us (604-580-0112) or drop us a line (info@aimvancouver.com) expressing your interest. We will reply immediately.

Happy riding in 2017!

Gary Richardson—Visitation Director