



# UNDER THE HELMET

WWW.RMBRC.ORG

MOA CHARTER #321

## Upcoming Rides/Events

### -Saturday Casual Rides

Usually there is a weekly option to ride, meet, or enjoy one another's company. The meeting spot is on Saturdays at Sam's #3 (corner of Havana & Parket Rd.) for breakfast at 9:00 am. Ride departure is at 10:00 am from BMW of Denver just a few blocks away.

### -Club Social Evening

#### 3 Margaritas Restaurant-April 11

Come join your fellow club members for a fun filled evening of conversation, camaraderie and delicious mexican food. The RMBRC will be meeting at Tres Margaritas-501 East County Line Road, Littleton, CO. The club will be meeting there at 6:00 pm and stay until around 9:00 pm. This event is a great way to meet new members and have great conversation outside of a ride environment.

### -Motorcycle Museums Ride-April

**25**

We will visit two motorcycle museums/collections south of Denver for this ride. Breakfast will be at Sam's #3 at 8am with departure from BMW Denver at 9am for the ride south to Salida to see the Kretz Collection. The Ed Kretz Family has been motorcycling for many generations and have a unique collection of racing motorcycles from Daytona, as Ed was the first winner at Daytona on the beach. Lunch stop in Colorado Springs and on to the Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Museum that was founded in 1992 and instead of motorcycles it focuses more on the faces of the people who made motorcycling their lives. Ride Captains are Roy Blakney and Wayne Sheffield and can be reached at [rides@rmbrc.org](mailto:rides@rmbrc.org) or (303) 756-2457.

## March General Club Meeting By Dave Fiack

A very interesting presentation by Bill Brokaw was enjoyed by several club members and their guests.

Bill comes from a motorcycling background beginning with his parent's motorcycle dealerships in Iowa. Bill continued the tradition in Colorado.

Bill showed 4 movies from his collection — all in 16mm. The movies were taken in the mid to late 1920's showing various activities. The "activities" were a few friends from the Waterloo, Iowa area getting together and having fun, not unlike what we do today. That's where the similarities end. When was the last time you participated in "motorcycle polo", and on ice no less. There was more than one "dropped bike". It's beyond me why there weren't more bent handlebars. Bill showed a lot of footage of hill climbing, with his father as the center of attraction. Rider safety equipment was non existent — white shirt, every day trousers and some participants wearing neckties. The participants took a running start at a fairly steep hill, all dirt I might add, and the winner was the person that could make it to the top without falling. For those that didn't make it to the top, the "support crew" would throw a rope around the handlebars and assist the rider in lowering the bike to the bottom of the hill. There were speed runs on the county road, Gypsy tours and much more. What is a Gypsy tour you might ask? Well a *Gypsy tour* is an American motorcycling term which originated in the early 1920s. Gypsy tours were organized where groups of riders all over the country converged on a favorite destination. The term *gypsy* was used because the riders would travel long distances and often sleeping in tents around a campfire along the way much like the Hollywood stereotype gypsies. Probably the forerunner of today's rally's.

We are grateful that Bill shared some motorcycle history with us from his private collection. Hopefully we can have Bill back again to share more of his private collection of motorcycle nostalgia.

## New Speed Record Set At Bonneville

A new record of 360.913 mph was achieved at the Bonneville Salt Flats by rider Rocky Robinson and builder/owner Mike Akatiff. Robinson made the historic run on September 26. The previous record was 350.884, set in 2006 by rider Chris Carr and builder/owner Denis Manning. That record, interestingly, broke a record of 342 mph set by Akatiff's team just days prior.

The record-setting vehicle, known as the Top 1 Oil ACK Attack, is powered by two heavily modified Suzuki GSX 1300R Hayabusa engines, for a combined displacement of 2600cc. Its chassis is made of chro-moly, and its outer layer is all carbon fiber. The streamliner is approximately 20' long.



**2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

With the start of a new year, it is time to announce the 2009 RMBRC

**Board of Directors:**

President:	Dave Fiack	president@rmbrc.org
Vice President:	Pere Wickes	vicepresident@rmbrc.org
Secretary:	Rick Valdez	secretary@rmbrc.org
Treasurer:	Tom Doggett	treasurer@rmbrc.org
Board Member:	Robert Wright	rwright956@aol.com
Board Member:	Mike Fox	foxer_boxer@msn.com
Board Member:	Chris Spanos, Sr.	programs@rmbrc.org
Membership	Dan Kearney	membership@rmbrc.org

Club Membership information is available online at  
[www.rmbrc.org](http://www.rmbrc.org) or contact Dan Kearney at (303) 582-3384

**CLUB STORE**

We are now stocked with many items for sale from our Club Store. We are in need of a volunteer to help keep items in stock and bring them to any meetings or events for sale to members and non members. Contact Ed Padalinski (720)384-5855 or Chris Spanos, Sr. (303) 340-1317 for items and/or to volunteer for our 1st Club Store Chairperson.

**Club Polo Shirts \$25.00**

**Club Decals \$3.00**

**Club Pins \$5.00**

**Club Hats \$16.00**

**Club Activities:**

-All Monthly Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at the Windsor Gardens Restaurant 597 S Clinton St. in Denver (unless otherwise noted). The Meetings begin at 7pm and food is served from 5pm to 630pm.

-Please note that the next meeting will be held at the WindsorGardens Restaurant on Thursday, April 2, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

**-All Monthly Board Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at 700pm in the Main Conference Room at the Parker Library. All members are welcome to attend!**

**DVD Club Library**

We are going to make another attempt at having DVD's available to members to check out/return at our monthly meetings. Any member who has a motorcycle related DVD that they would like to lend to other members should bring it to monthly membership meeting. Rick Valdez will be the Head Librarian responsible to see that the DVD's are tracked. DVD's will be lent out for a month (till the next membership meeting), and stern discipline will be handed out to members who do not return the DVD's on time. We'll put a list of the DVD's available to check out on our web site.

**Do not forget the Monthly Raffle. Last months winners received several very nice gifts as donated from our many fine sponsors. It could be your chance to win next month, but you must be present to win!!**

**CLASSIFIED ADS** TO PLACE YOUR AD CONTACT [EDITOR@RMBRC.ORG](mailto:EDITOR@RMBRC.ORG)**WANTED: Permanent Part Time Sales Associate**

24 hours/week, flexible hours, fun environment NO sales experience necessary BUT an experienced rider is preferred. Please contact Mary or Ed at **MotoGear Outlet at (303) 456-4757**

**FOR SALE: Carolina Riding Boots**

Knee-high riding boots, size 11, black with buckles across tongue and very top of the boot. Good condition, only worn a few times. \$75 OBO. Please contact John Walt at (303) 881-8354 or at [walt\\_john@yahoo.com](mailto:walt_john@yahoo.com)

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## RMBRC RIDE FOR THE GOLD '09

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Join the Rocky Mountain BMW Riders Club and BMW of Denver for the Ride for the Gold '09 to help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Colorado Gold Rush which began in 1859. On Saturday August 8, 2009 starting at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry near Colorado Springs, we will head out on paved and non-paved roads through the mining country near historic Cripple Creek and Victor, Colorado before heading back to the Denver area for the final barbecue sponsored by BMW of Denver at their dealership in Aurora.

Riders will experience some of Colorado's best scenery including Pike's Peak, several abandoned and working mines, and historic mining towns such as Victor. Participants who do not want to travel the unpaved portions of the ride will take a route through the same areas on paved roads. Included in the \$35 per person early registration fee (\$40 after July 15, 2009) will be a T-shirt and ride pin, lunch at the Pike's Peak Heritage Center near Cripple Creek, and the barbecue at BMW of Denver. We are limited to 150 bikes for this unique ride, so make your plans early and register at [Gold Ride Registration](#).



If you have questions and need to contact us, e-mail us at [Gold Ride](#), or contact Rick Valdez at 303-745-0692. We'll mail, or e-mail, your confirmation and other materials for the ride. Detailed maps and GPS coordinates will be available closer to the ride date. Those traveling from out of town, please get in touch with us if you need additional information. We look forward to having you ride with us for great scenery and lots of fun—you may even find some gold!!

After we receive your paid registration, we will send a confirmation by e-mail or standard mail, whichever you chose.

We look forward to having you join with us on the Ride for the GOLD '09.

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# Turning That Frown Upside-Down (Part 1) By Ken Condon

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**Don't let slow drivers on your favorite twisty road get you frustrated. Learn to stop for a minute and "ride the gap" instead.**

There are many difficulties faced by motorcyclists, things like erratic drivers, unfavorable weather conditions and dicey road surfaces. We can grumble and moan about these realities, and many of us do, but our energy is better spent minimizing their effect on our riding enjoyment.

Believe it or not, many of the negative challenges we face can be changed to positive experiences. Even situations that can't be made truly positive can often be neutralized so they have minimal impact on safety and fun. Let's take a look at some of these difficulties and see how to transform them into a good thing.

## **The Other Guy**

You may have sensed of the years that traffic volume has gotten heavier. It's true. According to the Federal Highway Administration, traffic volume had increased roughly 30% since 1987 and about 15% since 1997. More traffic means more congestion and more opportunities for a collision.

You may have also noticed that driver behavior is also getting worse. People seem to be less serious about their driving, demonstrating aggressive and careless maneuvers, revealing poor judgment. Drivers are also more likely to be distracted by electronic gadgets such as cell phones, iPods and navigation systems. Modern vehicles are equipped with an array of electronic devices that are often housed in complex displays that can require the driver's eyes to be off the road long enough to miss important clues.

When I speak at motorcycle events, the audience invariably brings up the topic of lousy drivers. It's typical to hear expressions of frustration, anger and hopelessness. This is understandable because of how dramatically traffic behavior affects our safety and riding enjoyment. I acknowledge the sad situation, but am quick to point out the possibility of turning these seemingly dismal circumstances into opportunities. This often silences the crowd as they ponder what the heck I could be referring to.

## **New Attitude**

The first step in turning the situation around is to remember the old saying about making lemons into lemonade. We can complain all day long about bad drivers or poor road conditions, but where does that get us? Instead, look for ways to meet the challenge. With a "can do" attitude, you are in a much better position to survive, and even enjoy, riding in challenging environments.

One way to help this attitude develop is to accept the reality of life on the road. Sometimes, the dangers of riding in a particular environment are just too stressful, which might make you avoid riding altogether. But another choice is to seek a more hospitable place to ride. This can be easier said than done, but oftentimes there are alternate routes to your workplace or other destination. These may require an earlier departure time, but may well be worth the effort.

## **Traffic Skills**

The second step in turning a difficult traffic situation around is to practice excellent traffic skills. Some motorcycle riders do not recognize the importance of proper lane positioning and effective information gathering and suffer the consequences in repeated close calls as a result. These riders will often assume that close calls are normal. This is too bad, because with increased awareness and a few simple strategies, these riders will experience fewer scary moments and a greater sense of control.

Effective lane positioning provides maximum visibility and maintains a space cushion between you and possible hazards. Unlike a car or truck, a motorcycle can be placed in the center, left or right portion of a lane. Effective lane positioning allows the rider to be more conspicuous and to see farther ahead, and keeps him or her away from hazardous drivers. Optimum lane positioning is ever changing. Unaware riders often stay in a fixed lane position. But this means they are not maximizing the benefits of using the whole lane.

The third step in making traffic less dangerous is to improve your information gathering skills. This means training yourself to scan aggressively for information that might indicate possible problems, such as unusual traffic movements and changes in road surface color and texture.

**STAY TUNED FOR PART 2 OF THIS ARTICLE IN THE MAY EDITION OF "UNDER THE HELMET"!**