



Victory

ROADS

Victory Riders Calgary NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting
August 27 10:15 am
Winkin' Owl Pub
13750 Bow Bottom Trail SE,
Breakfast Meeting
Ride to follow,
weather permitting



Three day run...
Kaslo Kurves kaps the season

By Jumpmaster (Don)
Ride Captain

Our first VRC Club ride to
experience the curves around Kaslo
and area was a great success.

We met up on Friday, August 11,
and separated into two groups due to
the large numbers in attendance. We
felt this was a safer way to travel rather
than trying to ride together.

Those who rode with me travelled
over the Porcupine Hills (Hwy 533) to
Hwy 22. We followed Hwy 22 to Hwy 3
and stopped for gas in Bellevue and met
up with the remainder of our group.
From there it was a scenic ride to our
day's destination, Creston, B.C. Supper
was at Tim's Fish & Chips with a hotel
meet up prior to the end of the day.

Saturday was already quite
warm when we headed out. Again
we separated into two groups, one
travelling with Drifter Don to visit a
ghost town and mine, while the second
group headed up to Nakusp where we
would stop for lunch.

The first leg of our days' ride took
us from Creston to the Balfour ferry.
We arrived just in time for a short
break and then boarded the ferry for
our trip across Kootenay Lake. While
riding across the lake, Dave, our group
toolbox, pointed out a low tire on a
ferry rider's car. He promptly went into
help mode by pulling out a portable

compressor and pumping up her tire.
Whatta guy!!!

Once across we headed up Hwy
31 (also known as the Balfour-Kaslo-
Galena Bay Highway or also referred
to as the Kootenay Lake Highway or
road or whatever...) to Kaslo. From
there we jumped onto Hwy 31A and
then Hwy 6 to Nakusp.

The ride itself was something to
experience. Curves upon curves upon
curves. I cannot do this route justice
with words, so I won't try - you really

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Silver ghosts
haunt Sandon

By Drifter Don
President

I have always loved ghost towns.
There is something about standing
on an abandoned street looking at
derelict buildings and imagining
what it must have been like when the
town was at its heyday. The people;
the stories, the bustle; the conflict; the
commerce, the hubbub; but mostly the
clear-eyed anticipation of a great future.
All gone.

A few years ago Club member Vic
Winder said to me, "You like ghost
towns; visit Sandon." I had seen the
directional signs to Sandon off Highway
31A near New Denver, B.C.; but the
gravel road that started right after the

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Three great
August rides

By Jumpmaster (Don)
Ride Captain

We have had three great Club
rides this month. However, one was
Kaslo Kurves so that kinda counts for
three in my books.

Our three runs so far this month
were:

- Sask River Crossing
Kaslo Kurves (see separate article)
Hwy 1A & Bow Valley Parkway

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# Upcoming Rides & Events

## August Breakfast Meeting –

August 27.

Winkin' Owl Pub, 10:15am

## 12 Stop Ride – August 26

## Bikes & Bombers – August 26

**Garage Sale** – Victory parts/ accessories for sale; go to FILES tab on our FaceBook site for details.

## Contacts

- President - Drifter Don  
DrifterDon@gmail.com  
Cell: 403-512-7528
- Vice President - John B  
John660258@gmail.com
- Secretary - KD  
BertheletKD@gmail.com
- Treasurer - James H.  
jhamling@me.com
- Road Captain - Jumpmaster  
jumpmaster@shaw.ca

## New members

Victory Riders Calgary now has 502 members, according to our Facebook site.

Welcome to our new members:

- Brendin Townsend
- Alena Poremsky
- Zac Friesen
- Seelan Sean Naidoo
- Le Khai
- Rick Brown
- Harry Tavecchio
- Peter May
- Jamie Hodgins
- Zoë Friesen
- Jocelyn Wright



# 2023 Rides & Events Schedule

## Victory Riders Calgary Ride & Event Schedule 2023

Colour Code:	GREEN - VRC Events	
	YELLOW - VRC Participation or Interest	
	BLUE - Victory National/Regional	
12-Jan	Vicmas!	Lighthouse Pub
22-Jan	VRC Meeting/ Breakfast/Brunch	Lighthouse Pub
Feb 3-5	Move The Soul Community Bike Show	New Horizon Mall
26-Feb	VRC Breakfast Meeting/AGM	Lighthouse Pub
Mar 11-12	Edmonton Motorcycle Show	Edmonton
26-Mar	VRC Meeting	Lighthouse Pub
23-Apr	VRC Meeting	
Apr 26-29	Bull Head (Laughlin) River Run	Laughlin, Nevada (mayheminfo.com)
Apr 28-30	Route 66 Bike Week	Arizona
06-May	International Female Ride Day	
May	Awareness Ride	Calgary
22-May	Victoria Day Ride.	
28-May	VRC Breakfast Meeting and Ride	Lighthouse Pub
04-Jun	Two Wheel Sunday	Calgary
June 8-11	VMC National Rally	Spearfish, South Dakota
June 16-18	IFK Kickstart Show	Calgary
17-Jun	Honour Ride	TBA
17-Jun	Ride for Dad	Ralph's Motorsports, Balzac
25-Jun	VRC Meeting	
24-Jun	For The Love of Motorcycles	Blackjacks Roadhouse, Nisku
July 8-9	Banff Jasper Parkway	
July	ECL Choppers For Charity Hospice Ride	TBA
July 20-22	Western Canada IMRG Celebration	Kimberley, B.C.
23-Jul	VRC Meeting	Lighthouse Pub, 10:15 am
July	VMC Regional Rally	TBD
July 29-30	Lethbridge Air Show	Lethbridge Airport
Aug 4-13	Sturgis Rally	Sturgis, South Dakota
Aug 11-13	Kaslo Kurves	
12-Aug	Ride to Reynolds	Wetaskiwin
Aug	Meet In The Middle	Route to be determined
26-Aug	12 Stop Ride for Recovery, Calgary	Calgary
26-Aug	Bikes & Bombers	Nanton Bomber Museum
27-Aug	VRC Meeting	
04-Sep	Labour Day Ride	TBD
15-Sep	Nanton Bomber Night Start Up	Bomber Command Museum, Nanton
17-Sep	Calgary Motorcycle Toy Run	Calgary
24-Sep	VRC Meeting/Fall Colours Ride	Highway 40 - South to North
24-Sep	Oyster Run	Anacortes, WA
22-Oct	VRC Meeting/Ride Weather Permitting	TBD
October	CVMG Fall Swap Meet	Red Deer
26-Nov	VRC Meeting	TBD
December	VRC Meeting	TBD
<b>Weekly</b>		
	Captain's Ride	Ride Captains' Call on time, place and destination
	Tuesday Bike Night	Twin Cities Saloon, Longview
	OBB Wednesday Bike Night	Big Sky BBQ, Okotoks
	Wild Wednesdays	Car & bike show, New Horizon Mall, 5pm-8pm every Wed.
	Motorbikus Mechanicus, Reynolds Museum	Wetaskiwin, until October 11, 2022
	CVMG Vintage Bike Night	Thursdays, A&W Drive In, 16th Ave and 4th St. NW

2023-07-27

## Contribute!

Send your own story, photos or story ideas to:  
**VictoryRidersCalgary@gmail.com**  
 How about a photo and write up on your bike?  
 Something for sale (Victory-related)? Post it here.



Don't get caught without your VRC Challenge Coin. \$15 (cheaper than buying a round.) Large and small patches also available.

From Page One..

# Ghost of silver boom and bust still haunts Sandon

sign, dissuaded me. I have some history with gravel roads that I wouldn't care to repeat. But Vic Winder said Sandon is doable.

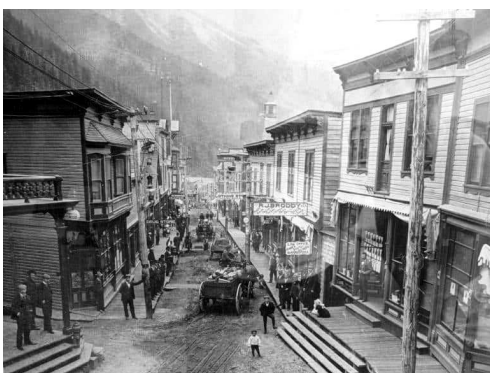
When **Road Captain Jumpmaster** put together the **Kaslo Kurves** event, I saw an opportunity to finally visit Sandon. I started doing research. Who knew a ghost town would have its own website? I guess they use ghost writers. Like most Kootenay ghost towns, it



was once a silver mining centre; and like most there were claim disputes, mysterious deaths and questionable dealings. But there was silver and the town was laid out in 1893.

Within a few years it had 5,000 permanent residents; double that when the miners came into town. It had: 29 hotels, 28 saloons, three breweries, an opera house, and one of the **largest red-light districts** in Western Canada (one report sets the number of brothels at 87, so we know where most of the silver went.)

Town facilities included a large curling arena, hockey rink, two ski



Sandon 1898



hills and venues for lacrosse, soccer, baseball, lawn bowling, cricket and tennis. Indoor facilities included a bowling alley, billiard halls and a gymnasium. And every building had **electricity**. Two railways sabotaged each other to be the first to service Sandon.

A fire in 1900 took out most of



the downtown. It was rebuilt, but less grandiose. The value of silver ebbed and flowed and Sandon boomed and busted with it. An avalanche and floods took out most of the original buildings and the collapse of silver's value in the 1950s finally did the town in.

**Vice Prez John B, Long-Distance Victor, Honda Don** and I broke away from the Kaslo Kurves group on Saturday and took on the gravel road to Sandon. It turned out to be in better shape than a lot of paved roads in rural Alberta.

Rolling into town, we passed abandoned buildings and one surprisingly well-kept cottage. Sandon Creek splits the townsite. We cross the bridge and ride past a flock of abandoned trolley buses that somehow got there from Vancouver and, oddly, Calgary. We ride alongside a monstrous

**steam train engine** attached to various industrial railcars.

We pass a brightly painted roadside food stand and the main building, which appears to be a combination general store/visitor centre/firehall/hotel and brothel. We park among the vast collection of huge industrial **trucks** and **mining equipment** that litters the townsite.

We buy "**Valley of the Ghosts**" patches at the store and learn that the staff are not ghosts but some of the seven permanent residents of the town. They cater to the town's **60,000 visitors** each year and solicit support for the various restoration projects including the buildings and an electric trolley from Vancouver that Honda Don and I are sure we rode on, back in our school days.

The food at the concession was **excellent** as was the company. Two groups of women riders from a rally at **Riders' Retreat in Nakusp** arrived on scene and entertained us with stories from the road. And there was pie! Strawberry-rhubarb to be exact. With ice cream. Perfect.

The day flew by and we didn't even get as far as the **museum** before it was time to head back to **Creston**. The ghosts will still be there next time we visit.





Members of Victory Riders Calgary included a couple of lake cruises in our three day Kaslo Kurves run. The MV Osprey connects the two halves of Highway 31.

## From Page 1.. Kaslo Kurves kaps season

do need to experience it. It was a long day, but a very rewarding one. The trip itself was only about 400+ kms, but the road speeds got as low as 10 kms/hr. in some cases.

Sitting around chatting, everyone agreed that it was a spectacular experience whether you had ridden this route before or not.

Our route home saw riders splitting off at different locations. My group headed up to **Radium** to ride back to Calgary via Hwy 93 with a short detour. Everyone got home safe and sound with some great stories to share.

Thank you all for coming and I hope to see you next year.



## From Page 1..

# Three great Club rides in August

The **Sask River Crossing** was well attended with folks from up north joining up with us for the ride. It is always great to meet new folks on our rides! The weather was great with a warm sun and only a few drops of rain here and there. Just enough to keep cool. We stopped at **Miner's Café** for pie and from what I understand, no one was disappointed. We made great guns to Rocky (I had a football game to attend) where we said goodbye to our friends from the north and returned back to **Calgary**. Thank you all who attended this ride. Hopefully you had a great ride.

Our August 17 trip up the **1A and Bow Valley Parkway** was sunny and warm. As we travelled the curves across the Stoney Reserve, we came across a horse round up being conducted by a couple in a van while the horses ran along the side of the road.

We went from horses to sheep when we met up with a large herd of **mountain sheep** just outside of Exshaw. The herd was substantial in size, all males and included tourists who had crossed the road from the wrong direction, pinning the herd against the cliff and were waving at us like idiots. I did, however, manage to express my displeasure as we passed.

The **Bow Valley Parkway** was beautiful, and we had a good portion of the trip to ourselves which is always nice. Although the Parkway is famous for its grizzly encounters, only a solitary deer put in an appearance. As we passed by **Castle Mountain**, smoke from B.C. wildfires became more evident. At **Lake Louise**, we came off the Parkway and headed back to **Canmore** on Highway 1.

Over lunch at the **Iron Goat**, Wes said he wanted go home via the **Highwood Pass**. Four of the group went that way. We had noticed the smoke getting quite thick in Banff so the group was not surprised when it encountered it even thicker in **Kananaskis**. They also encountered a particularly dim mountain sheep in the middle of the highway.



After lunch I headed back down **Hwy 1A** which was pleasantly deserted. Thanks to those who came out for this ride.

With the riding season coming to a close, I want to thank everyone who managed to get out and ride with the VRC. I will be travelling in September so depending on my availability and weather we may or may not get organized rides in.

Be well!

PS – Could really use another **road captain**. If you are interested or just want to find out about the role please seek me out.