



Victory

ROADS

Victory Riders Calgary NEWSLETTER

Try Moto-camping...

# Tired of comfortable, convenient hotels?

By John B  
Vice President

The 2024 motorcycling season is, with some luck, going to soon be upon us and all our winter ride planning can come to fruition.

Some of that planning will take us to destinations requiring multiple days of riding which usually means some sort of accommodations will be required. Obviously hotels are the most common choice, but there are other options and for me it's **moto-camping**.

As with most of my writing, much of my personal life influences how I present the information and choices I make. My parents immigrated to Canada from Poland with one suitcase and two very young children. Neither of them spoke English, and employment opportunities are limited when it's difficult to communicate. I was the eldest of four growing up and we didn't always have a lot, but we had



**camping**. Camping, along with some other outdoor activities, was always affordable back then and most of our summer holidays were spent at the lake.

I don't get out camping as often as I would like, but it has become an **alternative to hotels** on multi-day

rides. Last year I chose to camp on the Club's **Columbia Icefields** ride and **Kaslo Kurves**. If you are considering camping, there are quite a few choices to make and hopefully I can help. I think that before you decide if this is for you, you need to understand that there

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## Yes, it's High Miler start time!

You've always wanted to be in the 10k+ Club. Here's your chance.

The April Breakfast Meeting is the official start of the 2024 10K+ Club. It's easy, just record your odometer reading on April 28 (You don't have to be at the actual meeting, but we would like to see you.)

What's in it for you? If, by the end of the riding season (November Meeting) you've clocked 10,000 kms or more, you'll receive a 10K+ Club Patch or a 2024 rocker.

You'll also be in line for the High

Miler and Magic Miler trophies which are handed out at our Happy Vicmas! party.



## Next Event

*Breakfast Meeting*

April 28

10:15 am

Winkin' Owl Pub

13750 Bow Bottom Trail SE,  
Calgary

**Note Breakfast time**

Ride to follow, weather permitting

From Page 1...

# Moto-camping - another level of adventure

very likely will be a loss of comfort. Are you willing to sacrifice a theoretically comfortable bed, roof over your head, the thermostat or afraid of being a **burrito for the bears?**

The following is what I use to camp while riding and a lot of it may change to suit my needs. Firstly, I need somewhere to call home and that would be my **MSR ELIXIR 3 tent**. A smaller tent would take up less room, a major consideration for gear, but I find a three-man tent isn't much larger packed up but allows me to put everything inside it when set up. It is the heaviest item I pack at 3.19 kg.

In the tent I have a **KLYMIT Insulated V Lite inflatable sleeping pad** with a KLYMIT V Sheet cover. The cover has a pocket for the KLYMIT inflatable pillow. I don't find the sleeping pad very comfortable or large enough so it's one the items I will likely replace. On the sleeping pad I have a **BANFF RIDGE OUTFITTERS Xtreme lite 600 sleeping bag** that is rated for 13C comfort and -5C extreme. I don't recommend this bag for below 10C and prefer to use my **WOODS ADVENTURER 5C** even though it takes up more room.

Outside I have a **CASCADE MOUNTAIN TECH high back folding chair** and probably the second heaviest item at 1.65 kg. It is easy to set up and comfortable considering how low to the ground it is. The **ODOLAND Camping Cookware Stove** (AMAZON) consists of a 1.2 L pot and 0.6 L pot (neither will hold that much) that create a container to hold the folding stove, 16 oz cup, folding utensils and folding stand. The stove uses ISOBUTANE fuel canisters and one canister has lasted me all year. I like this set so much I keep it in my



**Odoland Camping Cookware Stove set includes pots, cup, folding utensils and folding stand. It uses isobutane fuel canisters**

truck for a different season. For food I have a **OZARK TRAIL backpack/cooler** from Walmart that is just large enough to hold 1-2 days of food, which I usually buy after I get where I am going if possible. The cooler folds up when not in use.

I also carry a small **hatchet**, water (one to two litres), instant coffee, a lighter, small first aid kit, a **6'x8' foot tarp** and pocket knife. The first aid kit, tarp and pocket knife I always carry whether camping or not. It stays with my tool kit. I almost always carry a gallon gas can (I've been called **PetroCan**) on long day trips, but this gets eliminated when I am camping.

I use a **dry bag** for all my personal items like toiletries, flip flops, electronics, clothes (one or two changes plus extra socks and underwear) and maybe a pair of sneakers. All of the items I use fit in the saddlebags and tour pack of my **Cross Country** with the exception of the dry bag which gets strapped to the rear seat.

Normally on **multi-day rides** I don't worry about food and eat out, after all I am primarily there to ride, but do like to make coffee in the morning. I have brought along a two-cup French press, but found it's too messy to clean and there isn't a good storage spot for it. So I settle for instant coffee.

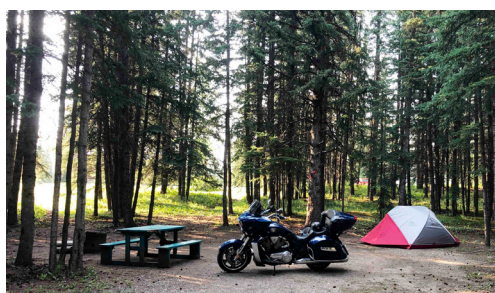
A few tips I've learned:

- Some **campgrounds** are motorcycle friendly, some are not, and showing up on a motorcycle usually draws lots of attention to keep you entertained for the evening.
- There are campgrounds that are **specifically for motorcycles**, but I prefer peace and quiet, and have avoided them because I perceive them as party places.
- I have been told to set up camp nowhere near the garbage cans in **bear country**, and maybe carrying bear spray would be a good idea, but I haven't had the need to yet.
- **Mountain Park Resort** in Creston, BC has a cantina that does not sell beer. For a tip they will give you a beer though.



- And, if it gets **cold** don't be afraid to wear all your riding gear to bed.

I am by no means an expert in moto-camping and get a lot of my ideas for gear (and recipes) from **YouTube**rs like **As the Magpie Flies** (Amanda Zito), **Her Two Wheels** (Jess), and **Ride to Food** (Staci Wilt). Whether it's to save a few dollars, try something new or combine two activities you love, moto-camping will add another level of **adventure** to your ride.



# Your first over-nighter?

By Drifter Don

When we were on the second day of our Spearfish, South Dakota, trip last year, a member came up to me in the parking lot and said, "This is my first overnight trip."

It brought to mind my first overnight trip of the modern era, to Sturgis more than 20 years ago.



My riding companion, with whom I had done several **day trips**, was no help in my preparation. I had **no rain gear, no puncture kit, no first aid kit, no layers, no tools, no spare gas, no sunscreen and no clue where I was going.**

Buddy had arranged the route and accommodations. Not camping, my idea of **camping** is a hotel that doesn't have room service after 11 pm.

First leg of the trip was **Calgary to Billings, Montana; 863 kilometres**, about double any day I had done since I got back into bikes. I was walking like **John Wayne** when we got to Billings. Day One included my first bike **border crossing**. The border guard just wanted to talk bikes, making my riding companion **irritated**. That condition would rule the rest of the trip.

We split a hotel room in Billings. He **woke me up** at 3 am to tell me I was snoring. I did not need to know that right then and offered to render him **unconscious** if it would help. The trip kind of went downhill

after that. His we-gotta-get-there attitude meant **Montana and Wyoming scenics** went by in a blur, unphotographed. I vowed to make the return trip without someone saying "what are we stopping for?" every time I slowed down.

We arrived in **Sturgis** to find we were sharing a two-bedroom **house** with three or four other people. I was told I get the dilapidated couch in the combination kitchen/livingroom. **I just said no**, walked over to the motel across the way and got a room all to myself. That was possible on those days; and it had room service. The **rest of the rally was great**. I found a couple of guys I enjoyed riding with. The only glitch was discovering I needed **new tires**, accommodated in **Rapid City, SD**. Big dollar ouch. The solo trip home was enjoyable; **great photos**.

That was about a hundred over-nighters ago, so, **lessons learned:**

- **Be prepared**, take everything you will need for any eventuality
- Know your riding **companions** (I never did another over-nighter with that guy)
- Know your **route** and your limitations
- Know your **bike and gear** will make the trip
- Know your **accommodations**
- **Bring ear plugs** for you or others
- Know when to **say no**.

Will you be doing your first **over-nighter** with the Club this year? I hope it is as memorable as mine was; but for better reasons.



**Don't get caught without your VRC Challenge Coin. \$15 (cheaper than buying a round.)**



## Some catching up

The March meeting gave us a chance to catch up on some unfinished business.

**Randy H**, above, was finally able to collect his 2023 10K Club patch. 10K Club patches and rockers were awarded at Merry Vicmas! in January. (See Page 1 for how to get yours.)

**Mark A**, below, collected a special patch for donating part of his anatomy to a slide down the highway. You can guess what part he is missing.



# Upcoming Rides & Events

**April Breakfast Meeting**  
**Sunday April 28**  
 Winkin' Owl Pub, 10:15 am

**NOTE CHANGE to Breakfast Meeting Ride to Follow, weather permitting**

## Contacts

- President - Drifter Don  
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 John660258@gmail.com
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 KD@gmail.com
- Treasurer - James H.  
 jhamling@me.com
- Road Captain positions open

## New members

Victory Riders Calgary now has 554 members, according to our Facebook site.

Scammers are among us. We can stop them from posting, but don't fall for any **fake friend requests**. See Scammer article in last month's issue of Victory ROADS on our website.

Welcome to our (possibly real) new members. Hope to see you on the road with us.


- Kris Greffard
- Gordon Elder
- Stephania Lee
- Jake Chastain
- Patrick Kallos Jr
- Kuljeet Singh



# 2024 Rides & Events Calendar

Next event on our schedule is the April Breakfast Meeting on April 28. If winter has finally gone back to the frozen hell it came from, we might be able to head out on a short ride after the meeting.

## Victory Riders Calgary Ride & Event Schedule 2024

Victory Riders Calgary Ride & Event Schedule 2024		
Colour Code:	GREEN - VRC Events	
	YELLOW - VRC Participation or Interest	
	BLUE - Victory National/Regional	
28-Jan	VRC Meeting/ Lunch	Winkin' Owl Pub
January 26-28	Edmonton Motorcycle Show	Expo Centre
February	Move The Soul Community Bike Show	Cancelled
February 2-4	Calgary Motorcycle Show	BMO Centre, Calgary
25-Feb	VRC Lunch Meeting/AGM	Winkin' Owl Pub
March 1-3	YEG Motorcycle Show, Edmonton	YEGmotorcycleshow.com
24-Mar	CVMG Swap Meet	Red Deer
23-Mar	VRC Meeting	Winkin' Owl Pub
April 3-7	Arizona Bike Week	Scottsdale
April 25-28	Bull Head (Laughlin) River Run	Laughlin, Nevada (mayheminfo.com)
April 25-28	Route 66 Bike Week	Arizona
28-Apr	VRC Meeting	
May	Awareness Ride	Calgary
20-May	Victoria Day Ride.	
26-May	VRC Breakfast Meeting and Ride	Winkin' Owl Pub
02-Jun	Two Wheel Sunday	Calgary
June 14-16	IFK Kickstart Show	Calgary
08-Jun	Honour Ride	TBA
15-Jun	Ride for Dad	Ralph's Motorsports, Balzac
June 21-23	Kids Cancer Care Motorcycle Ride	Calgary/Kootenays
22-Jun	For The Love of Motorcycles	Blackjacks Roadhouse, Nisku
23-Jun	VRC Meeting	Winkin' Owl Pub
July	Banff Jasper Parkway Overnighter	
July 12-14	Lewistown (MT) Bike Rally	
July 12-14	Bonedigger Bike Bash	Drumheller
July	ECL Choppers For Charity Hospice Ride	TBA
July 18 - 28	Two Hills Bike Week	Two Hills, Alberta
July 24-28	Western Canada IMRG Celebration	Kimberley, B.C.
26-Jul	CVMG Ponoka Rally	Ponoka, AB
28-Jul	VRC Meeting	Winkin' Owl Pub
July	VMC Regional Rally	TBD
July	Lethbridge Air Show	Lethbridge Airport
Aug 2-11	Sturgis Rally	Sturgis, South Dakota
August	Kaslo Kurves	
10-Aug	Ride to Reynolds	Wetaskiwin
August	Meet In The Middle	Route to be determined
16-Aug	Make-A-Wish Motorcycle Ride	Calgary/Highway 40/Cochrane
17-Aug	Bikes & Bombers	Bomber Command Museum, Nanton
24-Aug	12 Stop Ride for Recovery, Calgary	Calgary
25-Aug	VRC Meeting	Winkin' Owl Pub
02-Sep	Labour Day Ride	TBD
Sept 5 - 8	Victory Motorcycle Club National Rally	Hot Springs, Arkansas
15-Sep	Calgary Motorcycle Toy Run	Calgary
20-Sep	Nanton Bomber Night Start Up	Bomber Command Museum, Nanton
22-Sep	VRC Meeting/Fall Colours Ride	Highway 40 - South to North
Sept 26 - 29	Victory Gathering 6.0	Harrison, Arkansas, USA
27-Oct	VRC Meeting/Ride Weather Permitting	Winkin' Owl Pub
October	CVMG Fall Swap Meet	Red Deer
24-Nov	VRC Meeting	Winkin' Owl Pub
December	VRC Meeting	Winkin' Owl Pub
<b>Weekly</b>		
	Captain's Ride	Road Captains' Call on time, place and destination
	Tuesday Bike Night	Twin Cities Saloon, Longview
	OBB Wednesday Bike Night	Big Sky BBQ, Okotoks
	CVMG Vintage Bike Night	Thursdays, A&W Drive In, 16th Ave and 4th St. NW

2024-04-07



## Club Patches

Large patches \$30

Small patches \$10

Both for \$35

Not for sale...

# VRC introduces collectible poker chips



**There are all sorts of Club regalia you can buy - Club patches, t-shirts, hoodies and challenge coins. We've introduced something you can't buy - VRC poker chips.**

President Drifter Don introduced the **poker chips** at the March meeting, giving each attendee one.

"Someone, wish I could remember who, came up to me in the Club and suggested we do poker chips," he said. "So I went looking for a source."

Of course, he started and finished with **Club member Joan G.** and her company **A Second Time (asecondtime.ca)**. Joan was not only able to source the poker chips, but personalize them with the **Club logo**, using her laser-engraving capabilities.

"For the initial run of chips, some of which we handed out at the March meeting, we put the **riding year** on the reverse," Drifter said. "We can use these for whatever the Club members want. They can **collect them**, give them to friends, **trade them** for sexual favours, whatever."

These are real casino-style poker chips; heavy, not flimsy plastic.



"I can see them being given to members and guests who attend our rides and events as **souvenirs** of the day," he said.

"Because we have the capability of getting them personalized, they can be **custom engraved** for special events like **Kaslo Kurves** or the **Icefields Parkway** run," he added.

# Members, Club offering rides and gear for sale



**Member Helen Polack-Yip** is selling her Victory Gunner and offering it to members first. It's a **2015, 106ci 6-speed**, of course, with full **Bassani** exhaust, **Power Commander with AutoTune**, windscreen and luggage rack. It has **15,359 kms** on it. Helen has a bunch of additional stuff **including some gear** to go with it. She is **asking \$11,000** and will consider reasonable offers. Message her through Facebook for details.

**Member Whisper's 2015 Arlen Ness Signature Series Magnum** is still up for grabs at **Destination Cycles** in **Airdrie**.

It has **38,355 kms** on it, so it's almost broken in.

Features include **LED** headlight, tall touring windshield, colour matched **lower fairings**, chrome saddlebag top racks and side rails and brand **new Metzler 888** tires. She's asking **\$16,950**.



**The Club** has two jackets for sale. Top is a blacked-out light-weight fabric Victory riding jacket with armour. Size **2XL**, fits smaller.



Bottom is an all-weather Victory touring jacket with quilted liner. Size **Large**, fits slightly larger. **Open to offers; all proceeds to the Club.**