



Victory

ROADS

Victory Riders Calgary NEWSLETTER

John B becomes President...

New era begins for Victory Riders Calgary

VRC will head into the 2025 Riding Season with a new President at the helm. At the Club's Annual General Meeting on February 23, John B stepped up from the Vice President's position to take the big chair.

Also at the AGM, **Randy H** stepped up to take the **Treasurer** position, replacing **James H** (no relation) who retired after an amazing **17 years** as Treasurer of VRC and its predecessor, the Victory Riders Association.

Drifter Don moves to the **Past President** position, joining four others who carry that title: **Gary W, Ron DeG, Roy B and Kelly C.**

The AGM part of the February meeting was slickly handled by the **Nomination Committee - KD and Marilyn C.** They did an excellent job of both handling the nominations and dividing up the Club's designated activities.

Joan G was added to the **Social Media** team, And **Joan and Doug I.** took on the task of storing the club paraphernalia including the pop-up tent and display materials (as soon as

they can find room.)

Drifter will retain some of his past activities such as this **newsletter** and the **Facebook** page and **web site - www.VictoryRidersCalgary.com.** He is looking for help with those ongoing projects.

The **Nomination Committee** also introduced a novel idea to deal with the vacant **Ride Captain** position. It suggested the idea of **Ride Leaders** (referred to as **Ride Wranglers.**) These would be Members who come forward on an individual-ride basis to lead rides.

"This is a good idea," **Drifter Don** said at the meeting. "It allows a rider to step up and lead a ride to the level of his or her confidence. It could be an after-meeting ride to **Bragg Creek** for coffee, a **Highway 40 loop** or a major ride. The **Wranglers** can get a feel for and get practice in leading a group without taking on the full role of Ride Captain."

As the final action at the AGM, the Club voted **unanimously** to name retiring treasurer **James H** as its first **Life Member.** See the full story below.



VRC President John B shows off the trappings of his new office: President patches, gavel and base, and an air horn to make up for his shy, soft-spoken nature.

James H named Club's first Life Member

For his dedication and contribution to the Club, retiring Treasurer James H was named VRC's first Life Member.

This **honour** was bestowed on him at the Club's AGM on February 23.

President John B visited **James**, who has been dealing with some health issues lately, at his house and presented him with an **engraved plaque** and a Life Member **patch.**

James and Gary Wong founded the **Calgary Chapter of Victory Riders**

Continued on Page 2



President John B presents James with his Life Member plaque and patch.

Next Event

Breakfast Meeting

- See Facebook EVENT
Red Crowns Pub
March 30, 10am
Breakfast Meeting & Ride possible?

Upcoming Rides & Events

Breakfast Meeting
Red Crowns Pub
523 Woodpark Blvd SW
(New location)
March 30, 10am

Contacts

- President - John B
President@VictoryRidersCalgary.com
- Vice President - Open
- Secretary - KD Berthelet
Secretary@VictoryRidersCalgary.com
- Treasurer - Randy H.
Treasurer@VictoryRidersCalgary.com
- Past President - DrifterDon
DrifterDon@gmail.com
- Ride Wranglers - Open

New members

Victory Riders Calgary now has 630 members, according to our Facebook site.

We are still getting a number of fake accounts which are quickly blocked or removed.

Scammers are still among us, though. Don't fall for any **fake friend requests**. Because of Facebook's screwed-up system, we can't stop them from joining; but we can stop them from posting and ban them when they try anything nasty.

We had five new members join recently. Only two turned out to be real people. Welcome to:

- **Richard Wear**
- **Steve Johnson**



New venue for our monthly meetings

Since Victory Riders Calgary outgrew its old meeting location at the **Winkin' Owl**, the hunt has been on for a **new venue**.

Members **Joan and Doug** suggested the **Red Crowns** in **Woodbine** because they liked the **food**, liked the **management** and it's **close to their house**. We held our **February** breakfast meeting/AGM there and, by all accounts, we have found our **new home**.

Although the pub normally opens at 11am, manager **Sahel Sandhu** arranged for the pub to open at 10am to accommodate us.

The pub is **L-shaped** so we had the wing to ourselves even after the regular opening hour. **Food and service was**



Getting down to business at our new meeting venue, the Red Crowns Pub.

good and we didn't lack for **coffee**.

Apparently, word travels quickly in our circles. Sahel said a **second bike club** is now booking his pub for its meetings.

From Page 1...

First Life Member

Association in 2006, the year after James bought his **first Victory**, a **Vegas**. James became the Club's first **treasurer**.

When Polaris pulled its support of VRA in 2011 (sound familiar?), James and **then-President Ron 'Hippy' DeG** formed **Victory Riders Calgary** with a new logo and an independent aim to **build and support** the Victory community. James became **treasurer** of the new club, a position he held for 12 of the past **14 years**.

The plaque given to James was beautifully crafted by **Joan G's** company **A Second Time**. It was laser etched on slate with the following inscription:

James Hamling

In recognition of your vision, leadership, commitment and more than 20 years of dedicated contribution, Victory Riders Calgary is honoured to name you

Life Member

With Gratitude & Respect From the Members of
Victory Riders Calgary
February 23, 2025



In **response** James said, "Thank you. I have some great memories with this group and I'm glad to be a member of the family of Victory riders."



Sheep 1, Marilyn 0

Injured bikers often wear **'Broken Bones'** patches to show they survived a motorcycle **accident**.

Member **Marilyn C** will probably be wearing a Broken Bones wool scarf instead; made out of the perpetrator.

She was helping on her niece's **sheep ranch** in Central Alberta when one of the flock decided to butt in. Ewe can guess the rest.

The sheep rammed Marilyn and she landed in **Red Deer Hospital** where she was operated on to repair a **broken hip**.

She is **recovering well**, and the injury hasn't damaged her sense of **humour** about the incident.

She says she might miss a couple of meetings, but plans to eat a lot of **lamb chops** to get even with her attacker.

Get well quickly, Marilyn.



Randy H takes over as VRC's Head Wallet

The President patches weren't the only ones handed out at the Club's Annual General Meeting.

Randy H stepped up to replace the retiring James H as Club Treasurer.

Amazingly, Randy becomes **only the third** treasurer in Club history. James was treasurer for 12 of the club's 14-year existence. **Richard 'Major' Cruikshank** held the post for two years while James took a break.

John B presented Randy with his **new patches** when they met at the ATB to change over the banking contact information and signatures.

Several changes to the Club's banking system are proposed and will be discussed at the March 30 meeting.



He wasn't on a Victory, but we did have one member ride to our February meeting. John B dug out his Kawasaki KLR for the ride; we don't judge.

2025 Ride & Event Schedule

We are almost one-quarter through the year and you haven't ridden yet? Welcome to Calgary. We may not be riding in numbers yet, but the 2025 riding year is shaping up with new and returning riding events. Many returning event dates are still awaiting confirmation. If you hear of events or rides, let us know and we'll add them.

Victory Riders Calgary Ride & Event Schedule 2025

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Colour Code: | GREEN - VRC Events | |
| | YELLOW - VRC Participation or Interest | |
| | BLUE - Victory National/Regional | |
| 26-Jan | VRC Meeting/ Brunch | Winkin' Owl Pub |
| January 31 - Feb 02 | Calgary Motorcycle Show | Expo Centre |
| 23-Feb | VRC Breakfast Meeting/AGM | NEW LOCATION: Red Crowns Pub, 523 Woodpark Blvd. SW |
| 23-Mar | CVMG Swap Meet | Red Deer |
| 30-Mar | VRC Meeting | Red Crowns Pub |
| April 3-7 | Arizona Bike Week | Scottsdale |
| April 10-13 | Edmonton Motorcycle Show | Edmonton YEGmotorcycleshow.com |
| April 25-28 | Bull Head (Laughlin) River Run | Laughlin, Nevada (mayheminfo.com) |
| April 25-28 | Route 66 Bike Week | Arizona |
| 27-Apr | VRC Meeting | Red Crowns Pub |
| May | Awareness Ride | Calgary |
| 03-May | Hoodoo Voodoo Blessing of the Bikes | Drumheller |
| 19-May | Victoria Day Ride | |
| 25-May | VRC Breakfast Meeting and Ride | Red Crowns Pub |
| June | CJAY Kids Ride | Big Sky BBQ |
| 01-Jun | Two Wheel Sunday | Calgary |
| June | IFK Kickstart Show | Calgary |
| June | Honour Ride | TBA |
| 14-Jun | Ride for Dad | Ralph's Motorsports, Balzac |
| June | Kids Cancer Care Motorcycle Ride | Calgary/Kootenays |
| 21-Jun | For The Love of Motorcycles | Blackjacks Roadhouse, Nisku |
| 29-Jun | VRC Meeting | Red Crowns Pub |
| July | Jasper Parkway Overnighter | |
| July 11-13 | Bonedigger Bike Bash | Drumheller |
| July | ECL Choppers For Charity Hospice Ride | TBA |
| July 18 - 26 | Two Hills Bike Week | Two Hills, Alberta |
| July 16 - 20 | Western Canada IMRG Celebration | Kimberley, B.C. |
| July 25 - 27 | CVMG Ponoka Rally | Ponoka, AB |
| 27-Jul | VRC Meeting | Red Crowns Pub |
| July | VMC Regional Rally | TBD |
| Aug 01 - 10 | Sturgis Rally | Sturgis, South Dakota |
| August | Kaslo Kurves | |
| 09-Aug | Meet in the Middle/Ride to Reynolds | Wetaskiwin |
| August | Make-A-Wish Motorcycle Ride | Calgary/Highway 40/Cochrane |
| August | Bikes & Bombers | Bomber Command Museum, Nanton |
| 23-Aug | 12 Stop Ride for Recovery, Calgary | Calgary |
| 24-Aug | VRC Meeting | Red Crowns Pub |
| 01-Sep | Labour Day Ride | TBD |
| September | Victory Motorcycle Club National Rally | TBD |
| September | Calgary Motorcycle Toy Run | Calgary |
| September | Nanton Bomber Night Start Up | Bomber Command Museum, Nanton |
| 21-Sep | VRC Meeting/Fall Colours Ride | Highway 40 - South to North |
| September | Victory Gathering | TBD |
| 26-Oct | VRC Meeting/Ride Weather Permitting | Red Crowns Pub |
| October | CVMG Fall Swap Meet | Red Deer |
| 23-Nov | VRC Meeting | Red Crowns Pub |
| December | VRC Meeting | Red Crowns Pub |
| Weekly | | |
| | Leader's Ride | Ride Leaders' Call on time, place and destination |
| | Drifter's Ride | Lunch or "Coffee" Ride during the week |
| | Tuesday Bike Night | Twin Cities Saloon, Longview |
| | OBV Wednesday Bike Night | Big Sky BBQ, Okotoks |
| | CVMG Vintage Bike Night | Thursdays, A&W Drive In, 16th Ave and 4th St: NW |

One set of Executive patches remains unclaimed

There is one more set of patches to be picked up.

At our **February AGM**, the position of **Vice President** did not get filled. If you think you have what it takes to **step up** when the President is away and to **advise** the Executive, talk to **President John B** or any **Executive** member.





Gas pains?

Is higher **octane** better? With gas costing an arm, and a leg, can we run lower-octane, **cheaper gas**? Or is higher better?

Octane rating is not a direct indication of fuel's overall **quality**. It's the measure of a fuel's ability to resist 'knocking' or 'pinging' during combustion, caused by the air/fuel mixture detonating prematurely in the engine.

The little black book that came with your **Victory** says, "...use only unleaded gasoline with a **91 pump octane** minimum...." Typically, regular gas is 87 octane, mid-grade is 89, and premium is 91, but 93 and 94 octane are available at extra cost.

Can a Victory run regular gas? Some riders say they always have with no ill effects. Others say they tried it once and the motor felt like it was coming apart. A lot **depends** on how you ride. If it's hot and you're heavy on the throttle like **Mark A**, 87 octane won't cut it. If you need to save a few bucks, try it. Go to a higher-octane fuel if it knocks or pings. Unsure? Run what Victory recommends.

Does going **higher** than 91 octane improve performance? That's like the start of an **oil thread**. Some say there is better throttle response. **YMMV**. You will never harm an engine by running a higher-octane grade than you need to, but you could harm your **wallet**.

And if there's no mid or premium available when the needle is on E? Experienced riders carry **octane booster**, but a fill up of 87 won't be terminal if you go easy on the throttle, keep the bike cool and keep the revs low.

Victor Daly... VRC loses valued member

It is with considerable sadness that we learned one of our members, **Victor Daly**, won't be joining us this riding season.

Victor lost his battle with cancer on **March 3**. We will remember him for his dedicated support of the Club. Vic would ride his **Victory Vision** or drive down from **Red Deer** for our meetings and events. He rarely missed a meeting.

He will also be remembered for his great sense of humour. When the Club initiated the **10k+ Club** for people clocking more than 10,000 kms a year, Vic proudly entered that he had racked up a total of **400 kms**. That honesty led to the creation of the low-miler Skunk Trophy of which he was the first recipient.

He took the joke in stride and came back the next year having completed both the **Four Corners** and the **Three Flags** rides, recording more than **26,000 kilometres** in the process.

When he was asked to return the **Skunk Trophy** (a plush skunk toy) he said, "Nope." His granddaughter had fallen in love with the skunk and there was no way he was taking it away from her. The Club had to go



out and buy another one.

Victor is survived by his wife **Nellie**, son James (Susan), stepsons Brad and Brian Himer, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He will be missed. Our thoughts go out to Nellie and the rest of his family.

At his request, there won't be any services.

Biker Down offering safety courses

Biker Down, an international motorcycle safety organization, is offering free courses in Calgary.

In conjunction with the **Canadian Red Cross**, Biker Down is offering the courses on **March 22, April 12 and April 26**.

Full details are available on the group's **website** www.bikerdown.ca.

The free three-hour course is broken down into **three segments**: **Incident Scene Management** which includes managing an accident site; **First Aid for Motorcyclists** which includes safe

helmet removal; and **The Thinking Biker**, a module that covers the science of why we are not seen on the road and more. You can earn your **Biker Down Canadian Red Cross First Aid Certificate** upon completion. It is valid for three years.

Several **Club Members** have signed up for the course.

