



Victory

ROADS

Victory Riders Calgary NEWSLETTER

Biker Down courses...

Members sharpen tools they never want to use

By Drifter Don

There is some assurance in learning something you hope you never have to use. With that in mind I and several other Members signed up for the **Biker Down** accident scene management and First Aid courses offered in Calgary.

My session, along with Members **Lloyd M** and **Don S**, was March 22. It's a three-to-four-hour course in three modules. At the end of it we all got **Canadian Red Cross First Aid certificates**, valid for three years. **Treasurer Randy H** took the April 12 course. Other Members are signed up for the **April 26** course.

Don S summed up the course up this way: "I came away feeling far more **prepared** to make the right decisions should I ever encounter a 'biker down' incident."

He said, "The **course** wasn't all about rescue breathing, bandage application, CPR and AED (defibrillator) use; but you're definitely provided an

opportunity to get **hands-on** with those things. The **bonus** was learning, and discussing with other participants, topics I hadn't ever given much thought to. **Dynamic** scene management, ongoing **risk assessment**, casualty **triage**, safe helmet removal (or when not to remove), and the importance of reassuring victims in **shock** (and how to assess if they are), are just a sample of some things you'll learn."

Don S added, "Even if the class just inspires you to **upgrade** your First Aid kit (or purchase one during course registration), then you'll have benefited. Although our particular instructor wasn't a rider herself (and that would have been a bonus), her **knowledge** as a working paramedic of First Aid and its application at accident scenes was highly relevant. I'd **recommend** taking this free half-day course next time it's offered."

The instructor he referred to, **Paige**, knew her first aid stuff, but she was light on motorcycle



*With the assistance of armless and legless accident victims, Club members **Drifter, Don S** and **Lloyd M** brushed up on their first aid and learned accident scene management at the Biker Down course on March 22.*

experience. She raised a few eyebrows when she admitted she didn't know what a **modular** helmet is. She's supposed to teach us how to safely remove a helmet from a crash victim, but didn't know all formats of helmets? She was open about her lack of bike **experience** and was

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New President survives first meeting

Although he forgot his gavel and air horn at home, new President John B managed to maintain law and order, chairing his first meeting.

Flanked by **Secretary KD** and **Past Prez Drifter**, John zipped through the agenda at the **March 30** Breakfast meeting, getting all business done in record time.

Main item on the agenda was a

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*President **John B** listens to Treasurer **Randy H** explaining the intricacies of the Club's new bank account system which will streamline Club business.*

Next Event

Breakfast Meeting

- See Facebook EVENT

Red Crowns Pub

April 27, 10am

Breakfast Meeting & Ride possible?

Upcoming Rides & Events

Breakfast Meeting
Red Crowns Pub
523 Woodpark Blvd SW
(New location)
April 27, 10am

Contacts

- President - John B
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- Vice President - Open
- Secretary - KD Berthelet
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New members

Victory Riders Calgary now has 634 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 seven new members join recently. Only three turned out to be real people. Welcome:

- **Caidence Kbrat**
- **Bob Ross**
- **Victory motorcycle parts**



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Prez' first meeting

major change in the way Victory Riders does **banking**. With new **Treasurer Randy H** in charge, VRC's account was changed to a **Community Spirit** Account at **ATB**. The change in accounts means we no longer have to pay a service charge, **saving** the Club about \$120 a year, Randy explained. The account also gives us the ability to receive and send **e-transfers** and the club has been issued a **debit card** which can be used to pay bills and cover **expenses** like our website-related costs (domain names and website hosting.)

Randy said the new account would allow for **tracking** of expenses and revenue and allow for accurate **reporting** at each meeting.

In other business, Darren suggested the Club's **Facebook** site be split into a public site and a **private, members-only site**. Drifter said he would have the **Communications team** look into it.

Darren also reported that the supplier of **Club swag** was willing to re-open the ordering web page.

He will report back on that.



Lorne heads north

VRC is losing one of its more-colourful members. Lorne Stafford is moving to (gasp!) **Edmonton**.

Known for his **questionable** sense of humour and infinite supply of **Dad Jokes**, Lorne has been a valuable **supporter, participant and occasional photographer** for the Club. He will be missed at the meetings, rides and events.

Perhaps he can fire up a formal **Victory Riders chapter** in Edmonton.

We wish him the best, and Lorne, this is for you: A cheeseburger walks into a bar. The bartender says, 'Sorry, we don't serve food here.'

Record your kilometres and get clubbed

Don't forget to record your year-start kilometres for the chance to take your place in the 10K+ Club.

The club is for Members who rack up more than **10,000 kilometres** during the **2025 riding season**.

Members who attain that mark will get a 10K+ Club patch or, if they are already members, will get a **2025 year bar**. How **difficult** is it to clock 10,000 kilometres in a year? Between the April and November meetings, there are 30 weeks. That's **334 kilometres a week**, one Victory tank of gas. **YMMV**.

In addition to joining the 10K+ Club, you also become eligible to win the **High Miler** and **Magic Miler** trophies at the end of the season. The High Miler awards are given to the male and

female riders who chalk up the **most kilometres** during the year. The Magic Miler can be won by **any Member** whose year-end odometer reading matches five numbers spun out by a **random** number generator. Every Member has a chance to win it.



From Page 1...

Club members learn valuable safety lessons, brush up on first aid

very willing to learn from us.

Randy said, "I think those who have not had any First Aid training can get quite a bit out of it. For me, who had to take Standard First Aid for 40 years, only the bike part had **value**. When and how to **take off the helmet** was invaluable. One of the participants was a Rescue guy and a biker, so I **learned quite a bit** from his input."

According to Lloyd, "It was **fun**. There were things pointed out that I felt were very important, not only for the rider down; but also for the accident scene and the safety around the bike and rider. But I **damn near lost my ears** when I had my helmet taken off when I was playing the biker down."

The first module was **accident scene management**. The main takeaway was: don't make things worse. Park your bike past the accident scene, organize traffic control, if possible. Paige had some good tips on how to do this, but the main message was: You are in change, act it.

Once the site is **secure**, the second module kicks in: **attend to the victims**. Most of this was basic trauma First Aid, including amputation and tourniquets. We even learned to use an **AED**, which I had thought was an explosive device. It's a defibrillator. We had hands-on CPR, AED, moving the victim and helmet removal (including modular.) Helmet removal, of course, is **high risk** for neck injury, so only done to stop bleeding.

Module Three is **bike safety**. Not much new in it; takeaway was that everyone is out to kill you, try not to make it easier for them by staying visible, using lights, high-vis clothing, and being cautious.

Was it **worthwhile** taking?

Absolutely. Some approaches to First Aid have **changed** since I was last certified. The course had a lot of **refresher**-type material too; always valuable.

The course is **free**, but has a bike-friendly **First Aid kit** available for \$20 when you take the course.



2025 Ride & Event Schedule

Okay, hands up all those who are still waiting for their first ride of the year. 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, or want to create one, let us know and we'll add them. You can put your hands down.

| 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 |
| | OBB Wednesday Bike Night | Big Sky BBQ, Okotoks |
| | CVMG Vintage Bike Night | Thursdays, A&W Drive In, 16th Ave and 4th St. NW |



Theresa from Calgary Veterans' Food Bank had a big thank you for Victory Riders Calgary. The Club made a donation to the food bank on behalf of Member Joan G and her company A Second Time. The Club made the donation in recognition of everything Joan and her company does for the Club.



Member Mark Anderson, on an adventure bike tour of Italy converted his BMW to a VMW, showing the flag for Victory Riders Calgary.



Treasurer Randy H took a VRC sticker with him on his Jamaican vacation

Check list... Ready for that first ride?

If it ever stops snowing in Southern Alberta, we might all get out for a ride. But when it comes to that first ride, the actual riding should be last thing on your **checklist**. Here's what come first before you hit the streets:

1. Inspect your bike. Give her a good once-over. Check for leaks, loose connections. Look for signs of damage, missing or loose bolts or nuts, or parts that are out of place. Clean, tighten, replace or repair as needed.

2. Check the fuel system. If you smell gas, looks for leaks or loose connections. If your gas sat for more than six weeks, add Sea Foam or Sta-Bil or drain it and start over.

3. Pre-start checks. Test all switches and controls, including the ignition switch, engine kill switch, starter button, and handlebar controls. Ensure that the **switches** and controls move smoothly and that they engage and disengage properly. A shot of WD-40 will help.

4. Check the battery. Before you start checking electricals, hit the source. Victorys are famous for loosening up battery cables. Pre-ride is a good time to get down and dirty. Clean up the battery terminals and connections with baking soda and water; and ensure they will stay tight for the season. A fully charged battery showing under 12.4 volts should be replaced.

5. Check and inflate tires. Most tires lose some air over the winter, so check the pressure and pump them up to optimal. While you're at it, check for cracks and road damage. How many kilometres are on them? Start budgeting as some tires are hitting \$1000 a pair installed. Check the belt for cracks, wear and proper tension while you're down there.

6. Cables and fluids. Check and lubricate your clutch cable. Check



the colour of your brake fluid and replace if it's dark. Levers need lubricating as well.

7. Ensure Brakes Are Working. Give your tires a spin and squeeze the front and rear brake lever individually to ensure your pads are doing their job.

8. Check oil level. Victorys are famous for not burning oil, but check the level and colour nonetheless. How many kms since the last change?

9. Okay, turn on the ignition. Check to ensure your gauges, brake lights, turn signals, taillights and headlight are all working. Also check any accessories that you've added, particularly ones that connect directly to the battery.

10. Okay, start the bike (off the kickstand.) Listen for any funny noises (other than the usual ones Victorys make.) She should settle in a rhythm quite quickly.

11. Ready to ride? Nope. Three more checks. **First**, is your paperwork in order; licence, insurance and registration all up to date? **Second**, is your **gear** ride-ready? Helmet, boots, gloves etc. all fitting properly, in good shape, and ready for another season? **Thirdly**, are **YOU** ready to ride, mentally and physically? If you are, be careful out there. **Beware** of loose gravel and **bike-blind** car drivers. See you on the road.