



Victory

ROADS
Victory Riders Calgary NEWSLETTER

Shuswap safari...

15th Anniversary Ride finds the warm side

The grass may be greener on the other side of the fence, but the weather is definitely better on the other side of the Rockies.

Victory Riders members discovered this when they caught the westbound **15th Anniversary Ride** on September 11 to 13. The weather was in single digits and threatening when the group left Calgary Friday morning, but by

the time they stopped for lunch in **Golden**, the sky was blue; temperatures were in double digits and it got better from there.

President John B, Gofer Tracey, Treasurer Randy and Past Prez Drifter left from Calgary and had just pulled into the Castle Mountain viewpoint in Banff National Park when Member **Wade** cruises by, trying to catch up. He saw the bikes in the pull off, but was already past the entrance. He solved that by going in through the out door. He will henceforth be known as "**Wrong Way Wade.**"

The five carried on to Golden where **Gofer**, after battling a local over parking rights, found a good lunch pub. Member **Chris B**, on his way to the Okanagan, saw Victorys in the parking lot and decided to investigate. He rode with the group to **Sicamous**.

The gang mostly checked in to the **Paradise Motel/Campground** in Sicamous. Gofer opted for a B&B **cabin** on a farm outside of town with cows for alarm clocks. Member **Don S** arrived minutes behind the main group, having ignored a few speed limit signs. Joined by Member **Birdo**, a local, the group gathered for beer, then headed to **Aroy Maak Thai Cuisine** for a "light dinner." It seems 'light' is not on the menu there. Meals were substantial and delicious. **Drifter** presented the members with Club logo **temporary tattoos** to commemorate the Anniversary Ride. The evening ended with some members hitting



President John B found an idyllic camping spot at the Paradise.



The gang lands at the Dreamcycle Motorcycle Museum in Sorrento.

Brothers Tavern for a night cap and abuse from the barmaids.

Day 2 started with a substantial breakfast at **G&G's Restaurant**, a Drifter recommendation. **El Presidente** led the ride from Sicamous to the **Dreamcycle Motorcycle Museum** in Sorrento. The museum is one of those "always meant to stop there" places for many. The owner, **Mark**, has accumulated an impressive number of **rare and unique motorcycles**, many with documented histories that are told in a pre-recorded **audio guide**.

In the back is his **restoration shop**,
Continued on Page 2

Next Event

September 27 Meeting
10am, Red Crowns Pub

Upcoming Rides & Events

September Breakfast Meeting
September 27, Red Crowns Pub

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New members

Victory Riders Calgary now has 705 members, according to our Facebook site.

Gatekeeper Joan is merciless in sniffing out and booting fake members, bots, clickbait, scammers, and a new twist, AI accounts.

Welcome to our new members:

- **André Luis Joaquim Da Silva**
- **Neal Hare**
- **Derwin Bonney**
- **Dusty Rhodes**

15th Anniversary... from Page 1

viewable through glass walls. He even has an old **SEGA motorcycle racing arcade game**. Some of the members demonstrated their ability to bounce off the stone walls on the Isle of Man course.

Before leaving the museum, the Club presented manager **Kimberly** with a Victory Riders **sticker and poker chip**, which she mounted on the wall.

Outside **Prez John B** announced he had located "the **best pie shop**" in the Shuswap. Drifter led the group to downtown **Salmon Arm**, finding both the pie shop ("excellent!") and **parking**; no mean feat in Salmon Arm.

Unable to decide between the pie and the **Nanaimo bars**, our president chose both.

Randy presented an idea for an off-the-highway return trip, utilizing a **twisting backroad**. Randy led the group down the incredibly **picturesque** Salmon River Road with its scenic farms and landscaped forests. **Brilliant red maples** glistened against the azure blue sky.

The group headed south, almost to **Vernon**, and reality intervened. Wildfire **scars** dotted the land including one ranchstead completely burned out.

From there, they took Highway



Everyone left the anniversary ride with a souvenir tattoo.

97A back north past scenic **Mara Lake** to Sicamous.

No chance of a light dinner tonight at **Narrows Smokehouse**, great barbecue.

Sunday started with breakfast at G&G's again and a gas up before heading home. (Except Wrong Way who decided to keep going west, eventually hitting **Vancouver**.)

The group was soon reminded that the **Rockies** are much cooler than the Shuswap. The gas stop in Golden required coffee for some while **Gofer** headed straight to the **ice cream truck**.

The temperature continued to drop as the group **split up** in Calgary and encountered the **first rain** of the entire trip.

More photos on Page 3



The Thai restaurant in Sicamous was one of the gastronomic highlights of the 15th Anniversary Ride. From left, Don S, Prez John B, beleaguered server, Wrong Way Wade, Treasurer Randy, Birdo and Gofer.



More from the 15th Anniversary



Randy checks out the Dreamcycle Museum restoration garage.



Drifter ripping up the Isle of Man TT course on the museum's race simulator. Missed the podium.



One does not even think about messing with El Presidente's Nanaimo Bar. Pie came later.



The Dreamcycle Motorcycle Museum is an impressive collection of the rare, the exotic, the famous and the legendary in motorcycle lore.

Victory Riders Calgary Ride & Event Schedule 2026

Colour Code:		
GREEN - VRC Events		
YELLOW - VRC Participation or Interest		
BLUE - Victory National/Regional		
25-Jan	VRC Meeting/ Brunch	Red Crowns Pub, 523 Woodpark Blvd. SW
January 30 - Feb 01	Calgary Motorcycle Show	Expo Centre
21-Feb	BS & Beer	Woodie & Laura's garage, 5621 51st Street, Olds
22-Feb	VRC Meeting/AGM	Red Crowns Pub, 523 Woodpark Blvd. SW
15-Mar	CVMG Swap Meet	Red Deer
21-Mar	BS&Beer	Randy & Bonnie's garage.
29-Mar	VRC Meeting	Red Crowns Pub
April 9-12	Edmonton Motorcycle Show	Edmonton YEGmotorcycleshow.com
26-Apr	VRC Meeting	Red Crowns Pub
May	Awareness Ride	Calgary
18-May	Victoria Day Ride.	
24-May	VRC Breakfast Meeting and Ride	Red Crowns Pub
June	CJAY Kids Ride	Big Sky BBQ
07-Jun	Two Wheel Sunday	Calgary
13-Jun	Honour Ride	Blackfoot Motor Inn
20-Jun	Ride for Dad	Ralph's Motorsports, Balzac
June 25-28	VMC National Rally	Colorado Springs, CO
June	Kids Cancer Care Motorcycle Ride	Calgary/Kootenays
June	For The Love of Motorcycles	Blackjacks Roadhouse, Nisku
28-Jun	VRC Meeting	Red Crowns Pub
11-Jul	BS & Beer	Holly & Kevin's, Crossfield
July 17 - 27	Two Hills Bike Week	Two Hills, Alberta
July 22-26	Western Canada IMRG Celebration	Kimberley, B.C.
July	CVMG Ponoka Rally	Ponoka, AB
19-Jul	Meet in the Middle	Red Deer/Rocky Mountain House
July 23-26	Kaslo Kurves	Creston
Aug 07 - 16	Sturgis Rally	Sturgis, South Dakota
08-Aug	Ride to Reynolds	Wetaskiwin
15-Aug	12 Stop Ride for Recovery, Calgary	Calgary
22-Aug	Bikes & Bombers	Bomber Command Museum, Nanton
23-Aug	VRC Meeting	Red Crowns Pub
29-Aug	Ogden Motorcycle Swap Meet	Ogden Community Hall
07-Sep	Labour Day Ride	TBD
September 11-13	15th Anniversary Ride	Sicamous B.C./Dreamcycle Motorcycle Museum
12-Sep	Nanton Bomber Night Start Up	Bomber Command Museum, Nanton
13-Sep	Calgary Motorcycle Toy Run	Calgary
27-Sep	VRC Meeting/Fall Colours Ride	Highway 40 - South to North
25-Oct	VRC Meeting/Ride Weather Permitting	Red Crowns Pub
October	CVMG Fall Swap Meet	Red Deer
22-Nov	VRC Meeting	Red Crowns Pub
2026-12-13	VRC Meeting	Red Crowns Pub
Weekly		
	Wrangler'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
	QBR Wednesday Bike Night	Big Sky BBQ, 52nd St., Calgary

The road less travelled can be a ferry tale

by John Biskup
Victory Riders Calgary President

Have you ever had an idea that seemed great to start, but somewhere around the point of no return you question your own thought process? Usually, I like to tour gravel roads on my **Kawasaki 650 KLR**. It is a great bike for it, but this is where the idea turns into a great idea! Let's do a gravel road tour to the **last three ferries** in Southern Alberta; AND, let's do it on a **765-pound Victory Cross Country**. Sounds fun, right?

My route started on paved roads and led me from home near **Namaka to Gleichen** where I grew up. To be honest, the once town (now hamlet) I grew up has not aged well; but I still believe it was a great place to grow up.

Near Gleichen, I took a short ride onto the **Siksika Nation** for fuel. The Petro-Canada along HWY 901 is a convenient location as I am heading east to the hamlet of **Cluny**. I spent my teenage years in Cluny junior and senior high school. School days doubled the population, and the



Crowfoot on the Bow River.

pool hall had the best fries and gravy.

Approximately 18 kms south of Cluny is Township Road 202. I followed it for 26 km of gravel, ending at the Bow River and **Crowfoot ferry**.

Crowfoot ferry, named after **Chief Crowfoot**, is located on the Siksika Nation. The ferry began operations



Finnigan on the Red Deer River.

in **1927** and still operates today. I spent many weekends fishing, boating, swimming and just exploring the area with a childhood friend (his dad was the ferry operator). On this day, it seems there was no operator at the ferry, and I was a little concerned I would need to make the **26 km of gravel** back instead of the five km to HWY 56 and HWY 1 on the other side of the river. It seems the **alarm failed** to warn him of our approach. Luckily for me and the only other car, we eventually got his attention; and I rode the first of the three ferries.

Northeast of Crowfoot is ferry number two, the **Finnegan**. The good news is HWY 56 and HWY 561 are paved. Bad news is there is another 17 km of gravel north on **Range Road 161A** to HWY 862. Don't let the 'HWY' designation distract you though, it's another 18 km of gravel to HWY 570 (paved) east of Dorothy, AB.

Finnegan ferry is halfway between the 561 and 570. It began operating on the Red Deer River in **1912**, 13 or 14 (Google is not that accurate). It was named after John Finnegan, a Scottish settler in the area; and it is currently operated by **John Kuchle**. (I went to high school with his son in Cluny). The ferry was featured in **Tom Cochrane's Life is a Highway** music video (1991). The 18 km to HWY 570 was probably the **worst**

section, but I was happy it hadn't rained in weeks.

Following the 570 west takes you back down into the Red Deer River Valley past **Dorothy, Rosedale, and Drumheller** and eventually leading me to the last of the three ferries in Southern Alberta – **Bleriot ferry**. It's well known in the motorcycle community and the only one with no gravel. Bleriot ferry began operation in **1913** and taken over by the Alberta government shortly after. It was known as **West of Munson ferry** until 1966 when it was renamed after **Andre Bleriot** who built it.

All three ferries are **cable ferries** and cross 100 to 200 metres of river. Finnegan is the hardest to get to. Crowfoot is only five km from pavement to the north. Between 1906 and 1918 the ferry system exploded from 12 to **74 ferries** in the province (some Google sources say 80). After the Second World War, **bridge** construction slowly reduced ferries to the six remaining in operation today across Alberta. I appreciate that I can ride three of the six in one day even if it means cleaning dirt out of the **Cross Country** from where it doesn't belong. I am sure I will make the trip again; but maybe I'll use the bike more suited to the terrain next time.

Take the opportunity to get out and see some of our great **history before it's gone**.



The popular Bleriot ferry

Solo trip to the Coast is just 33 Bragg Creeks

by Drifter

The band Tame Impala sang:

"Space around me where my soul can breathe

Off guard body that my mind can leave

Nothing else matters, I don't care what I'll miss

Company's okay, solitude is bliss"

I was reunited with that feeling recently when I took a flying trip to the **West Coast** to visit a friend who hit a bit of a rough patch. Because time was of the essence, I did most of the trip on **slab** highways. That's rarely my preferred route, but there isn't a faster way to get a motorcycle from A to B. I pointed the **Cross Country** west and slapped on the cruise control, alternating between rock and roll music blasting through my Sena comms system, and the raucous quiet of the road. Both have their value during long rides.

Moving from **Banff to Golden to Salmon Arm**, insane **Alberta** drivers give way to **unpredictable** B.C. drivers. But sooner or later, I find that 'space around me.' It's usually around that tourist-trap stretch that includes the **Enchanted Forest** and **Three Valley Gap**. Time falls away. Cares float off. It's just me and the bike. It feels like that's the way it's supposed to be.

That's when the music gets muted, replaced by engine hum and the purr of tires on pavement. The highway has sufficient curves there that you can carve out a **rhythm** on the corners, using up the whole lane. The sides of tires sound different from the centres.

Kamloops flashes by and I'm diving down Highway 5, the **Coquihalla**. I'm not sure when they upped the speed limit to 120 kph, but it works. Set the cruise for a little over, sit back and have a nap. Passing **Merritt** starts the downhill



Sometimes finding solitude is merely a matter of letting it find you.

slide to the Coast.

In Calgary, it's 30 kilometres to **Bragg Creek**. Merritt to **Hope**, B.C., is 120 kilometres. I think of it as two trips to Bragg Creek and back. Distance becomes more manageable if I think of it in terms of Bragg Creeks.

Hope is the start of home. I grew up in the **Fraser Valley**, riding my motorcycle on those rural back roads when I should have been in school. Cracking through the ramparts of the **Coast Mountain** range brings back those days. The air changes from fir and cedar to clover, corn and cows.

I'm late for the Sunshine Coast ferry at **Horseshoe Bay**, but the ticket clerk calls the loader and asks

him to wait for one more bike. They raise the ramp behind me.

Gibsons Landing, home of **The Beachcombers**, was also my home for several years. Bruno Gerussi's boat **Persephone** is up on blocks in a little park not far from **Molly's Reach**; a filming set when I lived there, now an actual café. **Relic's jet boat** bobs in the harbour, and its new owner tells me he just can't get it running right. I suggest **SeaFoam**.

Funny being a home-town tourist.

After a couple of days of visiting friends, I sneak away one evening to a place where I spent many an hour. It's a beach front area, perfect for watching the **sun go down**. Company is okay, but solitude is bliss.



Stuff for sale



Original Victory Leather Jacket

- Used, heavy
- size L
- \$100
- Contact **Drifter**



Victory Perforated Leather Jacket

- Near new
 - Size Large, generous cut
 - With liner
 - \$300 or best offer
- Contact **Drifter**



Victory Art Photograph

18" x 24"

- Donated by Past Prez Ronny
- Unframed, five available.
- \$25, proceeds to the Club
- Contact **Drifter**



Victory Casual Cloth/Mesh Jacket

- Used
- size L
- \$50
- Contact **Drifter**



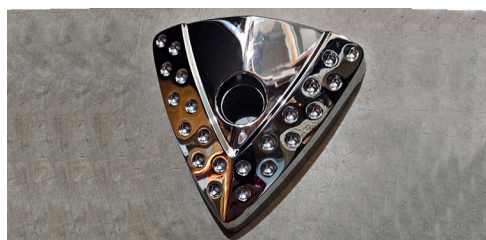
TourMaster Rain Gear

- Men's Size Large, Used, near new
- Quality, reflective
- Carrying bag
- \$50
- Contact **Drifter**



Indian Modular Helmet

- Near new
- Size XL
- \$300
- Contact **Drifter**



Cheese Wedge

- New
- \$25
- Contact **Drifter**



Steel Frame Passenger Seat

- New
- Tab connection
- \$30
- Contact **Drifter**



Odometers are counting down to season's end

Vice President Doug has set the end of November as the cutoff date for the High Miler recognition.

"Or when the snow flies, whichever comes first," he says.

He added that he has some surprises in store for this year's version of the **10k+ Club**.

Racking up those kilometres this year will have some special and rewarding attachments.

Want to know what they are? Get your year's final **odometer** readings into VP Doug the minute you put the bike up for the season.

Donation Reward wraps up at the September meeting

The time is getting short for you to make your \$5 **donation** to the Club and get in on winning some great prizes.

The **September 27** meeting will be the **deadline** for getting in on the action.

Prizes include a framed **Victory print**, **Victory flag**, **original oil painting** from Secretary KD and other goodies.

See any **Executive** members for details.

And still more stuff for sale

Additional items for sale, belonging to the Club or to Members, can be found on our site, **VictoryRidersCalgary.com**.

If you are looking for something specific, like gear, accessories or parts, drop an email to Parts@VictoryRidersCalgary.com.

If we don't have it, we'll help you find it.



Travel Mugs

- Laser engraved, various colours
- Club or Victory logo
- \$25, all proceeds to the Club
- Contact **Drifter**



Icon Riding Boots

- Women's Size 6, Lightly used
- \$50
- Contact **Drifter**



B&B and VRC

Some VRC members made a bombing run to Nanton on August 22 for the Bomber Museum's annual Bikes and Bombers.



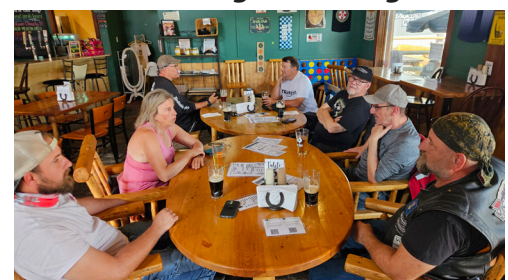
VRC Members got in-the-hangar parking, Rick and Birdo discuss.



New patches for 40th Anniversary



Four screaming Merlin engines



Irish pub break in Turner Valley