



“A Hand for the Downed Rider”

The Helping Rider

A.I.M VANCOUVER

133 Winter 2017-18

Welcome !!
A.I.M Vancouver Island Chapter
Port Alberni!
More info on last page.



Friday, Jan 19th - 12:00PM - 9:00PM
Saturday, Jan 20th - 10:00AM - 8:00PM
Sunday, Jan 21st - 10:00AM - 5:00PM

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Serving over 250,000 on-and-off road motorcyclists throughout the province, A.I.M. is a benevolent, non-profit society registered under the provincial Societies Act and holding a Federal Charitable Tax Number. A.I.M. is committed to assisting injured motorcyclists by providing legal assistance, knowledge of rights, assistance with emotional support as well as regular hospital visits and helping with aspects of recovery not covered by other agencies. It is operated solely by volunteers and relies on memberships and donations for funding.

Ride like you are Invisible, Ride Defensively!



The Helping Rider #133~Winter~ 2017-8

Vancouver A.I.M.

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Free to all interested readers.
Advertisements are welcome.
Articles and letters to the editor are also
welcome.

CHAPTERS

A.I.M Vancouver Island Chapter

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Northern (Prince George BC)

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A.I.M. Interior

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A.I.M. Meets

Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm
New Location Pending
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All are Welcome! Rain or Shine!

| | |
|--|--|
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| Size | \$ per Issue | \$ per 4 issues |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1/8 of page (B card) | 60 | 200 |
| 1/4 page | 120 | 420 |
| 1/2 page | 240 | 900 |

Disclaimer

We welcome your input, articles printed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Association For Injured Motorcyclists
Events, posters, and other information presented within this Newsletter are, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate; although we make a genuine effort to provide accurate information about third party events, you are ultimately responsible for verifying the information to rule out the possibility of errors, omissions, and unexpected changes or cancellations. -Thank you!

It Takes A Village. - African proverb

One way of increasing our effectiveness is by working with other organizations. Working together we can accomplish more to help our downed riders.

In addition to helping downed riders with hospital and home visits, providing them with emotional support, advising them of their rights, and helping with aspects of recovery not covered by other agencies, we also liaise with other non-profit agencies to engage in programs for the overall betterment of the downed rider.

We have established liaison with various hospitals to refer downed riders to us when they are admitted. The Social Worker will show them our pamphlet and ask if they would like them to contact us. We are often able to visit the rider within one day which is important as we need to make sure they know their rights.

If the downed rider has sustained a brain injury, we can refer them to B.R.A.I.N. (Brain Resource Advocacy and Information Network) which is run by Tina Suter. Tina provides assistance specifically related to brain injury and has developed several support groups in the lower mainland which are beneficial to the client. We have helped out with their picnic and their Christmas party as well.

If the downed rider has an amputation, we refer them (with their permission of course) to the Amputee Coalition of Canada who send a Certified Peer Visitor (amputee) to visit them. ACC matches the

Peer Visitor in terms of age, gender, level of amputation, religion, etc., which helps each to relate to the other. (Two A.I.M. Vancouver directors are ACC Certified Peer Visitors.)

We also refer amputee riders to the Amputee Support Group held at GF Strong monthly, and to the Amputee Coalition of BC Society.

We have referred downed riders to Disability Alliance for assistance with application for CPP Disability Benefits and with registering for the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

A.I.M. has been involved on a committee for the last seven years with Disability Alliance and Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association petitioning ICBC to increase the Part 7 Benefits. Success appears to be in the offing.

The new government is conducting a review of ICBC and is assessing the current level of benefits and treatment of claimants. The Attorney General arranged a meeting to obtain input from various non-profits and A.I.M. was one of those specifically invited to the table. We suggested proposals which were taken seriously and look forward to a positive outcome.

Working with other groups strengthens our ability to help downed riders.

We are growing our "village".

- Gary Richardson, Visitation Director

Rose Keith, J.D. Trial Lawyer

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Another Passing

It is with regret that we announce the passing away of our Treasurer and Visitation Volunteer Yvonne Rydberg.

Yvonne was certified as a Visitation Volunteer, was very insightful, and much appreciated by all with whom she shared her time. She took on the job of Treasurer with devotion. She always helped out at our events.

We certainly miss her.

(note, apologies no pic as it seems she escaped from the camera), everytime:()

If you know of a downed rider that would like a visit from A.I.M, please let us know by calling us at 604.580.0112

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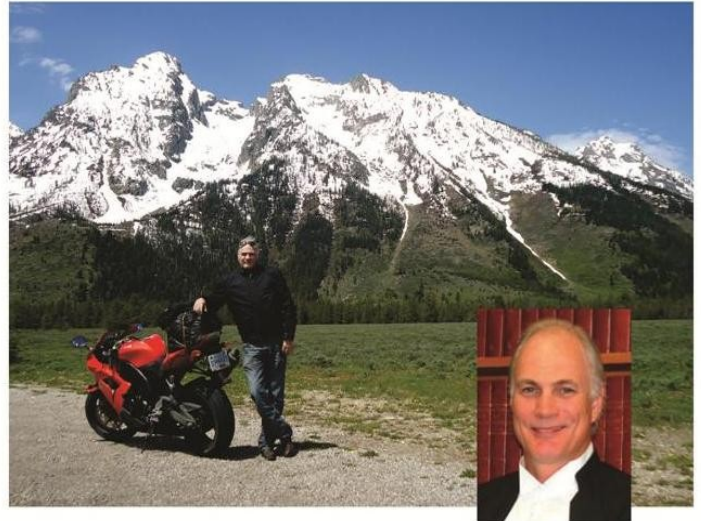
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Upgrading to LED sometimes easy, sometimes not

One of the biggest trends these days is to upgrade your car or bikes lighting from Halogen to LED. Power consumption is much lower and the smaller sized bulbs are considerably brighter. Headlights can be a major improvement, but be careful as the lower priced bulbs are not brighter than stock. To make the change worthwhile you gotta pay at least \$40 per pair to get higher lumens than halogen and decent quality. Check the Amazon reviews and you'll see the cheaper bulbs get some pretty poor reviews. I just upgraded a 99 Buick and will do my 2010 Malibu next then the 2006 FLHX. I was a pretty basic job but there are a few issues I will discuss.

For the headlight bulbs be careful with the size as LEDs all have either a heat sink or fan in the rear which makes them at times considerably longer than the stock halogens. Take the light shell out of the car and take a look or measure. Check the specs and make sure you have enough room length wise. On my Harley I had to cut the rubber boot as the LED was an inch longer due to the fan. Not a big issue but could result in condensation esp. as the LED doesn't throw enough heat to clear moisture out of the headlight enclosure. After two years so far it hasn't been a problem, but I don't ride in the rain as much as I used to. Some high end newer cars esp European can get an error showing on the dash as the car's computer sees the LEDs as a burned out bulb. Probably have to deal with the dealer so better to check out your car ahead of time as this kind of problem can end up costing a few bucks.

For those living in cold climates, the LEDs don't produce enough heat to keep snow and ice off the lens. It just won't melt, so you either got to manually clean them or stick with halogens.

The final issue is with the turn signal bulbs. On older vehicles and most bikes the stock relay must be replaced with a special "no load" relay that can see the LED bulb. If not you have hyper flashing condition where the turn signal flashes twice as fast as normal. Its not dangerous, but darn annoying and some say it bothers epileptics!! Be careful to buy the correct one as most electrical parts are non returnable. First one I purchased had the correct number of pins in the correct positions, but they


were too large so I had to eat it. Was more careful the second time and got one for twenty bucks from Amazon that did the trick.

Newer vehicles like my 2010 Malibu do not have a flasher, instead the computer controls everything. You have to clip in load resistors into the turn signal line just ahead of the bulbs, they create enough resistance, the cars computer can see the LED bulb as a regular bulb and it flashes at the correct rate. A bit of work but on a sunny spring day, not a huge job.

Interior lights are small and cheap and pretty easy to change out and they really make a huge difference, now I can read a map or newspaper with the map light. Same improvement for reverse lights, I can now see nearly five meters behind me, makes a huge difference in the winter in the city where people are constantly walking behind you when you are reversing. Similar increase in safety on the bike's brake lights which are perhaps three times brighter than stock and the entire conversion really reduces the load on your alternator so it will live longer

Cheers Craig

Enjoy Riding Everyone!!!!!!
Be Safe and Wear your Motorcycle Gear

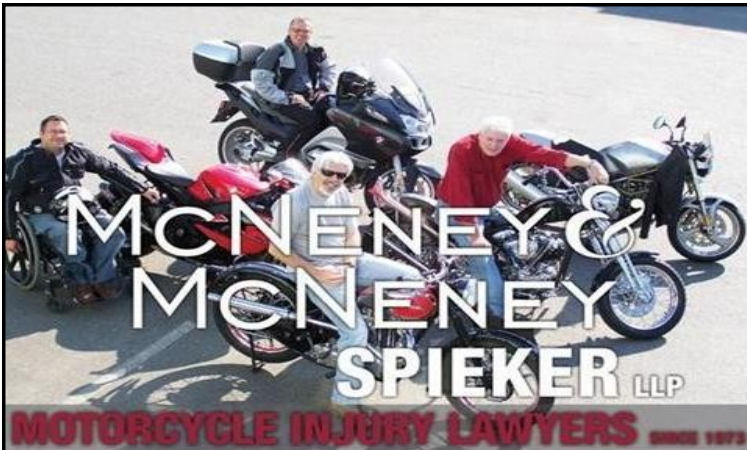


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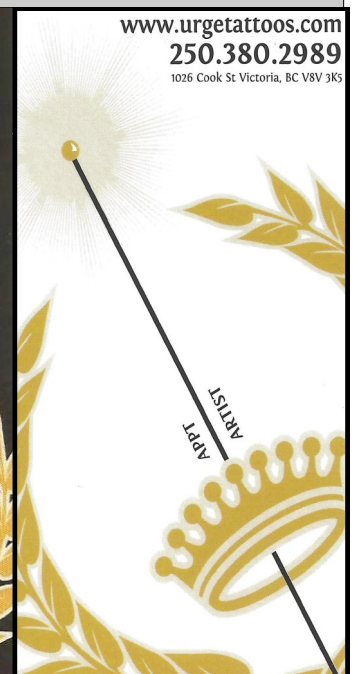
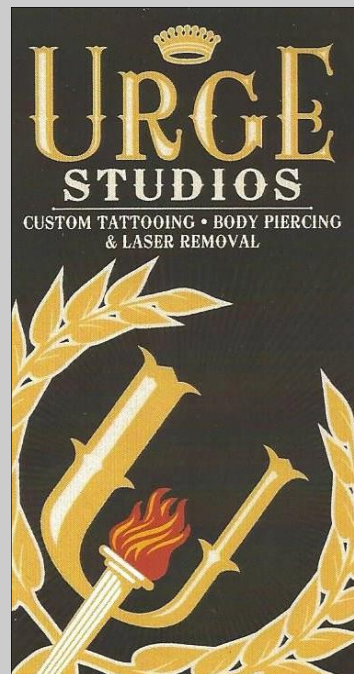
for being tardy with sending out memberships. With many changes and then being sick, we are a little behind .(psst, we are volunteers)

On another note. Have you moved or are moving, PLEASE PLEASE *email us a change of address* at info@aimvancouver.com

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**2017 Visitation
Annual Report**

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room on earth. - Muhammed Ali

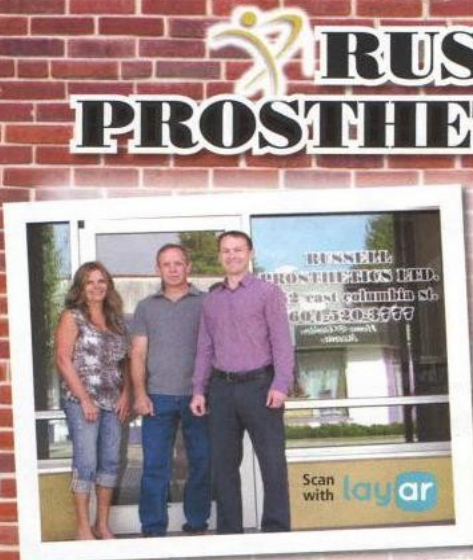
It was a whirlwind year. Too many downed riders. While it started out slow in the Spring, once the good weather kicked in the crashes multiplied.

This year we helped 57 downed riders, 21 family members and did 146 visitations and home visits.

We were plagued with amputations this year and one downed rider is awaiting surgery to amputate his arm, which is non-functioning, so he can get a prosthetic arm and go back to work.

The help we have provided throughout the year is varied but most important is the emotional support which is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to the many Visitation Volunteers who helped out throughout the year. Did a great



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job!

We have been busy in other endeavours as well. To see what we have been up to, check out our other article in this newsletter entitled:

It Takes A Village. Page 3

Gary Richardson—Visitation Director



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Whether you are an accident victim or a sincerely interested party, all help is greatly appreciated in this endeavor. All of AIM'S funds come from Memberships and Donations. WE NEED YOU! ... Become a member and give us support for effective representation on all matters of concern to Injured Motorcyclists.

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New A.I.M. Chapter on Vancouver Island!

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*If you haven't any charity in your heart, you
have the worst kind of heart trouble.*

- Bob Hope

Last summer we were asked to visit a downed rider at VGH. He was seriously injured and we did weekly visits until he was transferred back to Vancouver Island where he lived. We had been notified by his friends on Vancouver Island. We visited with him, ensured he knew his rights, emphasized the need to consult a lawyer, and gave him some motorcycle magazines, one of our newsletters and a Recovery Journal packed with information about benefits and resources as well as a diary in which he could record his recovery for legal purposes. We gave him full service and he seemed pleased with that.

A couple of months later we received a phone call from his friends enquiring about the possibility of starting up an A.I.M. Chapter on Vancouver Island. Dave Munro, our president, and myself went over to talk to them. Being frugal, Dave decided to swim over to save on the ferry fare. He donned a set of florescent orange water wings so we wouldn't lose sight of him, strapped his artificial leg on his back to keep it dry, and followed the ferry as his guide. Gotta give him credit, he kept up most of the way. He disappeared and the ferry stopped and we

floated loaves of bread to see if the body would reappear (like they did in Huckleberry Finn). Sure enough, Dave resurfaced and completed the trip, saving A.I.M. \$ 23.

We drove up to Port Alberni and even though we had instructions Dave got lost a few times and we finally broke down and asked directions and ended up at the right place.

We met a group of enthusiastic riders who were eager to start up a new Chapter. After going through all the ins and outs, they remained steadfast that they wanted to continue. So we now have a Chapter starting up again on Vancouver Island. They have formed a Board of Directors, are filing with the BC Societies Act, and are producing a web site.

We wish them success, and, WELCOME !

As for Dave, he took the ferry ride back. Said he didn't like getting wet!

- Gary Richardson, Visitation Director

A VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER

*One does NOT need to be a member
of AIM for us to visit a downed
rider, talk to the family and or share
info.*

*Nor does one need to be a member or
even ride a motorcycle to volunteer.
Just be you, open heart and mind,
willing to learn and share, and be
around a great bunch of people.*