



## Alliance for Injured Motorcyclists of Canada Northern B.C. Chapter

Serving Prince George & Area – Newsletter March 2009

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March 2009

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*Special points of interest:*

- 1st Annual Allwynn Long PG Hospice Run
- Early Birds
- Maintenance Tips
- Application Form
- Upcoming Events
- History & Purpose of AIM

### Early Birds - Early Riding Tips

As spring draws closer, we dream of rumbling pipes and feeling the wind in our hair, or lack there of. Before we take to the open road, there are a few things to consider.

First and probably the most important, are the 4 wheelers. Those in their cars do not expect to see bikes out and about with the snow still piled high. They have gone all winter without us around and are not used to watching for us. As we all know, a lot of them do not see us at the best of times.

Secondly, the roads are still full of hazards. The most likely will be sand and gravel left over from winter. The worst will be in the corners and on the sides of the roads. You can easily lose traction and slide on loose sand or gravel, or be hit by flying pebbles from passing cars. Please, ride accordingly, and keep a safe distance. Also watch for ice or frost in shady areas of the road, be really careful in shady corners of the road.

Thirdly, remember motorcycle tires are not designed for cold roads or weather. The rubber compound is much different than that of a car or truck tire. In cooler weather, the road surface is cold and the tire becomes hard. This results in little or no traction. Remember a motorcycle tire becomes "sticky" to grip the road. Cold pavement and cold rubber is like riding on glass. Warm road surface plus warm tires equal traction.

Also, a lot of us may be a little rusty after sitting idle all winter. Take time to get your skills back. Be sharp, ride safe and you will keep it Two Wheels Down. Let's not meet by accident.

Darryl Laing - AIMPG President

Serving over 250,00 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 by helping with aspects of recovery not covered by other agencies. It is operated solely by volunteers and relies on memberships and donations for funding.

## Maintenance Tips - "Brake Fluid"

Wayne Balcaen, Vice President & Mechanic

Modern brake fluid comes in 3 varieties. DOT 3, DOT 4 and DOT 5.

If you put DOT 3 in a DOT 5 system, the seals will "swell" and your brakes will lock on. Crack the "Bleeder" screw and release the pressure and you can freewheel again til you squeeze (step-on) the lever.

If you put DOT 5 in a DOT 3 system, the seals will shrink and "OMG" the brakes will fail.

DOT 4 for whatever reason (I'm not a chemist) is compatible with both. So as long as you have a bottle of DOT 4 in your garage, you have the "Right Stuff" and **CAN'T** screw up!

Manufacturers can't seem to make up their minds between one or the other as they keep bouncing around from year to year. 3 started it off then 4 and very quickly 5. Back to 4, back to 3 and up again and so on. 3 seems to have the best longevity but when spilled it eats paint, EXPENSIVE!!! 5 works well but wears out quickly.

Stick to the 4!! Doesn't eat paint, and it is a good compromise and is all we use at the shop. Often ignored till it is too late, brake fluid should be changed every 2 years. When doing this yourself, do NOT drain the system! Remove the master cylinder cover, soak up all the fluid you can with a clean disposable rag. Fill with fresh fluid. Use quick short strokes on the lever to dissipate air from the master cylinder. "Pump" up the brake then "crack" the bleeder and release the fluid pressure. Repeat till the Master Cylinder goes low and refill. When fluid comes out of the Bleeder clean, you are done.

To avoid making a mess, slip a hose over the Bleeder into a bucket (old battery vent tubes work well) to catch the old fluid. Top up, replace the cap and finish your "Bevy".

Wayne Balcaen

## ***EULOGY FOR THE "BUS"***

Wayne Balcaen

It occurred to me the other morning while having a breakfast smoke that I, among many others, still feel a lack of closure where that grand old building was concerned. We don't have funerals or memorials for buildings, however, in this case we should have. The Columbus was an entity unto her own.

Like going to Gramma's, always warm and inviting, welcoming you no matter if it had been an hour, a day, a month or a year since you had last been there. Like good friends and family, no matter the time span since your last visit, within minutes it was like you had never left.

Handshakes, hugs and smiles abounded in a steady stream almost infectiously. Of course, you would have to say Hi to Uncle Jim, Aunty Linda (always my conscience when alcohol clouded my judgment), cousins Cassie & Claudia and many other "relatives" and good friends. You can pick your nose but you can't pick your family. With Lady Bus you could. It was a very special family, one was proud to be a part of. Listening to stories told round those rickety tables with the faded terrycloth covers, sitting in wobbly chairs on an uneven hardwood floor watching the steam rise off the riding gear resting on those creaky old radiators after a wet ride - some of my best memories.

While some of the stories grew a little tall and some were outright lies, there was also honesty and bluntness when dealing with each other. If need be, things would be resolved out back the old fashioned way - remember when men were men and women stayed out of it? Of course afterward you would end up buying each other a beer out of mutual respect. Now they shoot each other from cars and we're the primitive ones??!!

All our lives were dramatically altered by Her. I saw my first stripper there when I was 17. Some found love, made life long friends, learned to play pool, learned to fight and learned to respect. A full set of encyclopedia's doesn't hold enough pages to tell everyone's stories of that Grand Old Girl. She may have taken a small portion of city, but She'll always hold a big place in our hearts. There will never be another like her, and there are many "lost" souls without her. She will be dearly missed.

**COLUMBUS  
HOTEL  
1920 - August 19, 2008**



***Dedicated to all who loved her and the men who died with Lady Bus***

## Letter from Cliff Hammond - AIMCAN President

Well it's finally starting to warm up a bit and we all are suffering from the warm weather itch's. RIDING SEASONS right around the corner and it's time to start thinking about what events we will be attending. Half the fun is the anticipation and planning, getting the bike ready, talking to your friends and reminiscing about past trips and conspiring about how to make this year's trips better. Between Nicki's car accident and my broken and battered old body we have had to suck it up and trailer the noble steed down to our favorite events, but at least we can still enjoy the short rides around the beautiful Okanagan countryside.

I don't know about you but now's the time I start thinking about getting whatever I need in the way of bike parts, new leathers, and bike tune up supplies before it gets too crazy at the bike shops. Don't forget to frequent our many businesses that have been loyal supporters of our local AIMCAN chapter.

As more and more of us become better on the computer it gets easier to keep in touch with our riding community via the internet as well as websites like Facebook. AIMCAN is no different as we also have a web site and a Facebook page so that we can stay in touch with our members and answer any questions they or the general public may have. Please be patient as we are in the development stage of this site and are still learning all the great things we can do with it.

## Schedule of UpComing Events

### *May 2009*

#### ***MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH***

- May 2 2009: Vintage Motorcycle Club Show 'N Shine  
*Kinsmen Community Complex - 777 Kinsmen Place*  
Rev-Up to Spring Dance -  
*Kinsmen Community Complex - 777 Kinsmen Place*
- May 1-2 2009: Motorcycle Awareness at Pine Centre Mall

### *June 2009*

- June 2009: Father's Day Show 'N Shine Downtown PG
- June 6, 2009: Kamloops Charity Run
- June 14, 2009: PG HOG Poker Run
- June 20, 2009: Vanderhoof Hospice Run

## Schedule of UpComing Events

### *July 2009*

- July 3-5, 2009: Toad Rock 2009
- July 10-12, 2009: PG Muscle Run
- July 17-19, 2009: HOG Western Regional - Cranbrook, BC
- July 26, 2009: Syk Cycle Back Alley BBQ & Show 'N Shine  
*1715 Nicholson St. S. - PG BC Call for more details 250-563-6369*
- July 31 - August 3, 2009: Boogie Bash - August Long Weekend - Rock Creek BC

### *August 2009*

- August 13-15, 2009: 14th Canadian National HOG Rally - Calgary, AB
- August 15, 2009: 1st Annual Alwynn Long Ride for Hospice

### *September 2009*

- September 6, 2009: Sun Fun Poker Run  
Quesnel Toy Run  
Smithers Toy Run
- September 7, 2009: Mackenzie Toy Run
- September 20, 2009: Vanderhoof Toy Run
- September 26, 2009: Prince George Toy Run Dance  
*Connaught Youth Centre - 17th & Victoria Street*
- September 27, 2009: Prince George Toy Run

**If you have any events planned or know of any upcoming events that you would like to see added to the newsletter - please email them to [AIMPGNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:AIMPGNewsletter@gmail.com).**

## Letter from the President

Well here we are in March again. As I look ahead to the upcoming riding season, I see a year packed full of excitement. This season, like all past seasons, promises to be packed with events for both the traveler and those who wish to stay closer to home.

I attended the last All Clubs meeting and everyone has at least one event planned for the upcoming season. There is everything from weekly organized rides to full weekend rallies. All of these events promise to be a new adventure and great time for all.

I encourage everyone to check out at least one event this year. You don't have to be a rebel or maintain an image, all you need is the desire for adventure, and the will to have a good time. Several events will be listed in our calendar contained in our newsletters. Also, ride/event cards will be available soon at most bike shops. Also check the internet directory for a schedule of events.

As always, we hope for a good riding season, but even with the worst weather, a good season is one where our services at AIM are not needed. Lets all enjoy the adventure of riding and be safe out there. Have a safe season.

Darryl Laing

AIM Northern BC President



- MOTORCYCLES
- SLEDS
- ATV'S
- DIRTBIKES

### ALL MAKES AND MODELS

PH: (250) 564-0880 • FAX: 564-0877  
1654 S. OGILVIE ST. PRINCE GEORGE, BC V2N 1W9  
EMAIL: [pgmotorcycleshop@shaw.ca](mailto:pgmotorcycleshop@shaw.ca)

Pat Graham  
Owner



Store (250) 563-6369  
Emergencies: After hours call  
Pat (250) 640-0349  
Claudio (250) 613-9111

MOTORCYCLE SHOP  
1715 Nicholson St. S.  
Prince George BC,  
V2N - 1V7

SHEEP



SEATS

452 Dornbierer Cres.  
Prince George, BC  
V2M 5Y6

Darryl Phone: 250-981-8434

Lori Phone: 250-981-8432

E-mail: [sheepseats@shaw.ca](mailto:sheepseats@shaw.ca)

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# Alliance for Injured Motorcyclists of Canada Northern B.C. Chapter

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Phone: 250-552-2536

## History of A.I.M.

In 1983 a group of Vancouver BC motorcycle accident victims established the "Association for Injured Motorcyclists." They intended to provide moral and financial support to accident victims and their families as well as references to legal support, rehabilitation sources, etc.

In 1988 the Vancouver Chapter began establishing chapters throughout the Province of BC. These chapters applied for, and were registered under, the BC Societies Act and became autonomous organizations. Because there was no central organization, only non-binding agreements could be put in place at informal meetings.

In 1996 these chapters agreed they needed a body to regulate the organization, to control the growth of the movement, and use the logo (pictured at the right) and name.

On May 24, 1996, the "Alliance For Injured Motorcyclists Canada" was created and has since been registered as a Canadian non-profit corporation.

New chapters have been established in Prince George BC and Lethbridge AB that operate under the national organization's charter and are A.I.M. CAN chapters.

## Purpose

Our objective is to provide assistance to motorcycle accident victims and their families by...

### Chapters

Establishing chapters in every province of Canada to provide direct assistance where needed.

### Support

Providing the necessary framework for the operation of chapters through consultation, networking, and the provision of instructional training manuals, and startup assistance.

### Participation

Carrying the concerns of our members and chapters to all levels of government, participating with other organizations to promote awareness and programs of support for those injured, and joining with others to promote safe motorcycling programs.

### Governance

Conducting the administration of the organization and ensuring that standards of program, fundraising, and victim assistance are maintained. Ensuring the general reputation of the organization is protected from abuse or misuse.

The Board of Governors and Executive Officers of A.I.M. CAN are unpaid volunteers who serve you because they believe in assisting their brothers and sisters in need.

## Advertising Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a business card or black/white "print copy" of any logo for your company with order.

*Mail to:*      *Attention Newsletter*  
*452 Dornbierer Cres.*  
*Prince George, BC*  
*V2M 5Y6*

Ad size	Per Issue	Per Year
Business Card	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.00
Quarter Page	\$ 45.00	\$ 150.00
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